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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Food and Nutrition Service has conducted periodic surveys of food stamp households to determine the characteristics and circumstances of program beneficiaries. This report presents the results of the most recent survey of almost 7,000 participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The report has two objectives: a description of the economic and demographic circumstances of food stamp participants in February 1983 and an examination of changes in these circumstances since February 1982.

Previous characteristic reports were based on a sample of households selected from the Food Stamp Quality Control (QC) system. The QC system was an ongoing review of food stamp households to determine if eligibility and benefits had been calculated properly or if household participation was correctly denied or terminated. The February 1983 Food Stamp Characteristics report is the first based on a sample from the redesigned Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS). The IQCS, like its predecessor, is the basic accountability measure of Food Stamp Program operations. The IQCS differs from QC in two ways: it integrates the QC systems of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Medicaid and Food Stamps, and it relies on a revised form to collect data. These changes make the February 1983 report not completely comparable with previous studies.

Over 22 million people in the United States received food stamp benefits in February 1983. At the time these data were gathered:

- c The average gross income of all participating households was \$376 per month. Over 5 percent reported no gross income for the month. Almost 37 percent of all food stamp households had a total gross income that was less than half of the official poverty guidelines; nearly 93 percent were below the poverty line.

- c Half of all food stamp households also received benefits under Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). Twenty percent had earned income. Twenty percent of all households received Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits; 18 percent received Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

- c The average deduction from gross income was \$175 per month. The most frequent deduction--other than the standard deduction available to every household--was for excess shelter costs, claimed by nearly 74 percent of all food stamp households. About 20 percent claimed a deduction for earned income. Both the dependent care and medical deductions were used relatively infrequently--by about 2 percent of all food stamp households--but they provided a substantial deduction for those households able to claim them.

- c The average monthly food stamp benefit was \$127 per household. Eighteen percent of all food stamp households had no net income after taking the allowable deductions from gross income, and thus received the maximum allowable benefit. About 5 percent received the minimum \$10 benefit guaranteed to

all participating one- and two-person households.

- o When food stamp benefits were counted along with cash income, the percentage of food stamp households below the poverty line fell from 92.5 percent to 85.8 percent. Program benefits had an even greater effect on the poorest households: the income of nearly 27 percent of the participating households rose to at least half of the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit.

- o The average food stamp household included 2.9 people, but there was substantial variation among different household types. Households with school-age children included an average of 4.0 people. Households with earned income averaged 3.7 people. Households with elderly members were typically smaller, averaging only 1.7 persons. Almost half of all food stamp households had only one or two people.

- o Approximately 71 percent of the heads of food stamp households were women. The average age of female household heads was 39 years; the average age of male heads was 42 years.

- o Fifty-two percent of all the people participating in the Food Stamp Program were children (less than 18 years old). Seven percent were elderly (60 years old or older). About 8 percent were disabled.

o Eighteen percent of all food stamp households had at least one elderly member. Eighty percent of all elderly participants lived alone or with one other person (usually elderly as well). After adjusting for the differences in average household size, households with elderly members had relatively higher income, and consequently lower benefits, than households with no elderly members. Only 8 percent of the households with elderly members had a gross income that was less than half of the poverty line. Twenty percent received the \$10 minimum benefit.

o Approximately one-fifth of all food stamp households reported earned income. These households tended to be larger than average and had relatively high income (\$574 per month, on average). About 49 percent of these household had no additional income beyond their earnings.

o More than two-thirds of all participating food stamp households included children. These households were predominantly headed by women. Households with children were typically larger and had higher incomes than those without children.

A comparison of survey data from February 1982 with the results of the current survey shows that:

o Average monthly gross income rose from \$345 per household in February 1982 to \$376 in February 1983, an increase of 9

percent. After taking account of a 4 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index, real gross income actually increased 5 percent.

- o The percentage of food stamp households with gross income above the poverty line decreased from 8.2 to 7.5 percent. The percentage of households below half the poverty line increased from 33 percent to 37 percent.

- o All food stamp households were not equally affected by inflation. Automatic cost-of-living adjustments to Social Security and SSI payments protected the purchasing power of many elderly and disabled food stamp participants. The real value of Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits among food stamp households remained constant, while the real

benefits of SSI recipients increased 7 percent. AFDC benefits on average did not change. The real value of wages and salaries rose about 6 percent.

- o The percentage of food stamp households that claimed at least one deduction increased from 71 to 74 percent. The value of the shelter deduction, averaged over those households that claimed it, increased about 9 percent, from \$92 to \$100 per month. The earned income deduction was claimed by one-fifth of all food stamp households, and its average value increased 9 percent, reflecting a rise in average earnings. Both the dependent care and medical deductions resulted in substantial deductions when they were claimed. But because so few

households claimed these particular deductions--approximately 2 percent--they did not have much impact on the change in the overall level of deductions.

- o The average monthly food stamp benefit increased from \$110 per household in February 1982 to \$127 in February 1983, a change of 15 percent. This increase was caused primarily by a catch-up adjustment in the maximum coupon allotment which had been frozen since January 1981. The maximum coupon allotment for a family of four rose 9 percent between February 1982 and February 1983. Average gross income grew at approximately the same rate while the average deduction grew by 5 percent.

INTRODUCTION

The Food Stamp Program is a nationwide program which helps low-income families and individuals buy the foods they need to maintain a nutritious diet. This assistance is in the form of coupons that can be redeemed for food in authorized food stores, thus increasing the purchasing power of low-income households. The program is authorized by Congress, administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), and run through State welfare agencies and their local offices. An average of almost 22 million people received food stamp benefits each month during Fiscal Year 1983 at a total cost of almost \$12 billion.

Because food stamp benefits add to the resources available to low-income households, the Food Stamp Program can be considered part of the Federal income maintenance system. It is distinct from other income maintenance programs in two important ways. First, it is designed to provide nutritional assistance to low-income households. Thus, program benefits--the food stamps--can be used only to buy food. Second, the program is distinguished by the absence of categorical restrictions on eligibility and participation. Unlike Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), for example, program eligibility is not limited to specific types of people (for example, mothers with dependent children, the elderly, or the disabled). Instead, the Food Stamp Program is available to all who meet the income and resource standards set by Congress.

Thus, program participants are likely to represent a broad spectrum of the low-income population.

The Food and Nutrition Service has conducted periodic surveys of food stamp households to determine the characteristics and circumstances of program beneficiaries. This report presents the results of the most recent survey of almost 7,000 participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The report has two objectives: a description of the economic and demographic circumstances of food stamp participants in February 1983 and a brief examination of changes in these circumstances from the prior year.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the structure, size, and economic context of the Food Stamp Program in February 1983. Chapter 2 describes February 1983 food stamp household circumstances in some detail while Chapter 3 looks at trends in household circumstances and caseload composition from 1982 to 1983 by comparing the February 1983 sample with February 1982. Chapter 4 presents an extensive set of detailed tabulations of household characteristics in February 1983. The appendixes to this report contain supplemental tables and a brief description of the sample design. The reference population for the discussion which follows and for the detailed tables in chapter 4 is the February 1983 food stamp population in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The most recent food stamp characteristics reports examined participants in August 1980, August 1981, and August 1982. Because food stamp participation

exhibits a distinct seasonal pattern, February 1983 was selected as the sample month for this report in order to examine the caseload during a winter month, when participation is traditionally higher and characteristics may differ from summer months. The August series of characteristics samples will be continued with a combined August 1983, August 1984 report to be released at a later date.

CHAPTER 1: AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The number and characteristics of households participating in the Food Stamp Program tend to vary somewhat over time. Several factors contribute to this shifting. Legislated programmatic changes, such as in eligibility requirements, are partially responsible. The economic status of the nation as well as underlying demographic trends may also affect the program's level of participation and characteristics of participating households. This chapter provides some background on the general circumstances of the Food Stamp Program in February 1983.

The chapter begins with an overview of the eligibility requirements that were in place in February 1983 and a brief description of legislation implemented since February 1982. Characteristics of food stamp households were also tabulated for February 1982 and are used as a baseline for describing changes in the 1983 household characteristics. This is followed by a brief summary of total program costs, participation and economic conditions in Fiscal Year 1983.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS IN FEBRUARY 1983

Each household had to meet certain uniform standards to qualify for food stamp benefits in February 1983. These included a gross and net income limit, a resource limit, and a variety of nonfinancial criteria. Each of these is discussed briefly below. Some of these standards changed between February 1982 and

February 1983 due to the implementation of P.L. 97-253, the Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1982 (1982 Amendments).

The 1982 Amendments enacted a number of measures that changed eligibility and benefit determination rules. Among other changes this law:

- o Reestablished a net income screen of 100 percent of poverty (in addition to the gross income screen) for non-elderly, non-disabled households.
- o Rounded household benefits and adjustments to the maximum allotments, standard deduction and dependent care/excess shelter cap to the nearest lower dollar.
- o Reduced the Thrifty Food Plan by 1 percent when adjusted on October 1, 1982; October 1, 1983; and October 1, 1984.
- o Delayed the cost-of-living adjustment to the standard deduction and the dependent care/excess shelter deduction cap.
- o Eliminated initial prorated allotments of less than \$10.
- o Further restricted the eligibility of college students.
- o Tightened provisions for claiming the standard utility allowance.

All of the above provisions were implemented between February 1982 and February 1983.¹

¹The February 1983 characteristics do not reflect the most recent changes made to the Food Stamp Program. Public Law 98-204 expanded the Secretary's waiver authority for Monthly Reporting and Retrospective Budgeting requirements and strengthened wage-matching provisions. Public Law 98-483 increased food stamp allotments to reflect the full value of the Thrifty Food Plan.

Income Eligibility Standards

To be eligible for food stamps, the gross monthly income of most households had to fall below 130 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines (\$12,090 annually for a family of four in February 1983) and their net income had to fall below 100 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines (\$9,300 annually for a family of four in February 1983). Households with an elderly or disabled member were subject only to the net income test described below. Gross income included all cash payments to the households with the exception of a few specific types excluded by law or regulation (such as loans, nonrecurring lump sum payments, and reimbursement of certain expenses). The following deductions were then subtracted from the household's gross income to determine its net income:

- o A standard deduction adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the cost of living. The standard deduction was \$85 in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia in February 1983.
- o An earned income deduction for working households equal to 18 percent of the combined earnings of household members.
- o A dependent care deduction for the expenses involved in caring for children or other dependents while household members worked or sought employment.
- o An excess shelter deduction for those shelter costs (such as rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, property taxes, and insurance) that exceeded 50 percent of the household's income

remaining after all other deductions were taken. For most households, the combined value of the dependent care and excess shelter deductions could not exceed a maximum set by law and adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the cost of living. The limit in February 1983 for households living in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia was \$115.² Households with an elderly (age 60 or older) or disabled member were exempted from this limit--they were entitled to subtract the full value of all shelter costs greater than 50 percent of their adjusted income.

- o A special medical deduction limited to households with an elderly or disabled member. These households could deduct all medical costs exceeding \$35 incurred by the elderly or disabled person. Medical expenses reimbursed by insurance or government programs were not deductible.

After subtracting these allowable deductions from gross income, the household's net income was then compared to a table of monthly income limits based on the official poverty guidelines set by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). These guidelines vary by household size and are updated annually to reflect changes in the cost of living. The Food Stamp Program income limits are adjusted each July to correspond to the most recent OMB poverty guidelines. In February 1983, a four-person

²Both the standard deduction and ceiling on the combined value of the dependent care and excess shelter deductions in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the Virgin Islands were adjusted to reflect price differences from the mainland. See appendix C for the value of each in February 1983.

family living in one of the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Guam, or the Virgin Islands could qualify for the program with a net monthly income of \$775 and a gross income of \$1,008 or less.³

RESOURCE ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

The value of household's assets further restricted program eligibility. Most households were permitted up to \$1,500 in countable resources. Households with two or more people, at least one of whom was 60 years old, were allowed up to \$3,000. Countable resources included cash on hand and assets which could easily be converted to cash, such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments. They also included such nonliquid assets as personal property, vehicles, buildings, and land. The family home and lot, one family car if under \$4,500 in value, and tools of a trade or business property used in earning the family income were not counted.

NONFINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

People could qualify for benefits only as part of a "food stamp household." In general terms, a food stamp household consisted of an individual who lived alone or who lived with others but

³Separate income limits were also computed for both Alaska and Hawaii. See appendix E for the full array for each household size.

usually purchased and prepared food separately; and groups of individuals who lived, purchased food, and prepared meals together. Parents, under 60 years old, living with their children were counted as a single household. An individual 60 years of age or older living with others (and the spouse of the individual) who is unable to purchase and prepare meals due to permanent disability may constitute a separate household provided the income of the others the individual resides with (excluding the wife) does not exceed 165 percent of the poverty line. Some restrictions were placed on the participation of aliens, students, strikers, and residents of institutions. The income, resources, and deductible expenses of all persons in the food stamp household were counted to determine the household's eligibility for benefits.

The Food Stamp Program included several provisions to encourage able-bodied participants to seek and hold jobs. With certain exceptions, physically and mentally fit food stamp participants had to register for and accept suitable employment. The exceptions to this work registration requirement included:

- o People under 18 or over 60 years of age.
- o Physically or mentally disabled people.
- o People participating in AFDC's work incentive program (WIN).
- o Caretakers of dependent children less than 6 years old or incapacitated adults.
- o Caretakers of dependent children less than 18 years old in households where another able-bodied parent was registered for

- work or working full time.
- o People receiving unemployment compensation.
 - o Participants in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation programs.
 - o People who were working at least 30 hours per week.
 - o Selected types of students.

An active job search was required of some work registrants. Furthermore, applicant households whose primary wage earner voluntarily quit a job without good cause were made ineligible for 60 days.

BENEFIT COMPUTATION

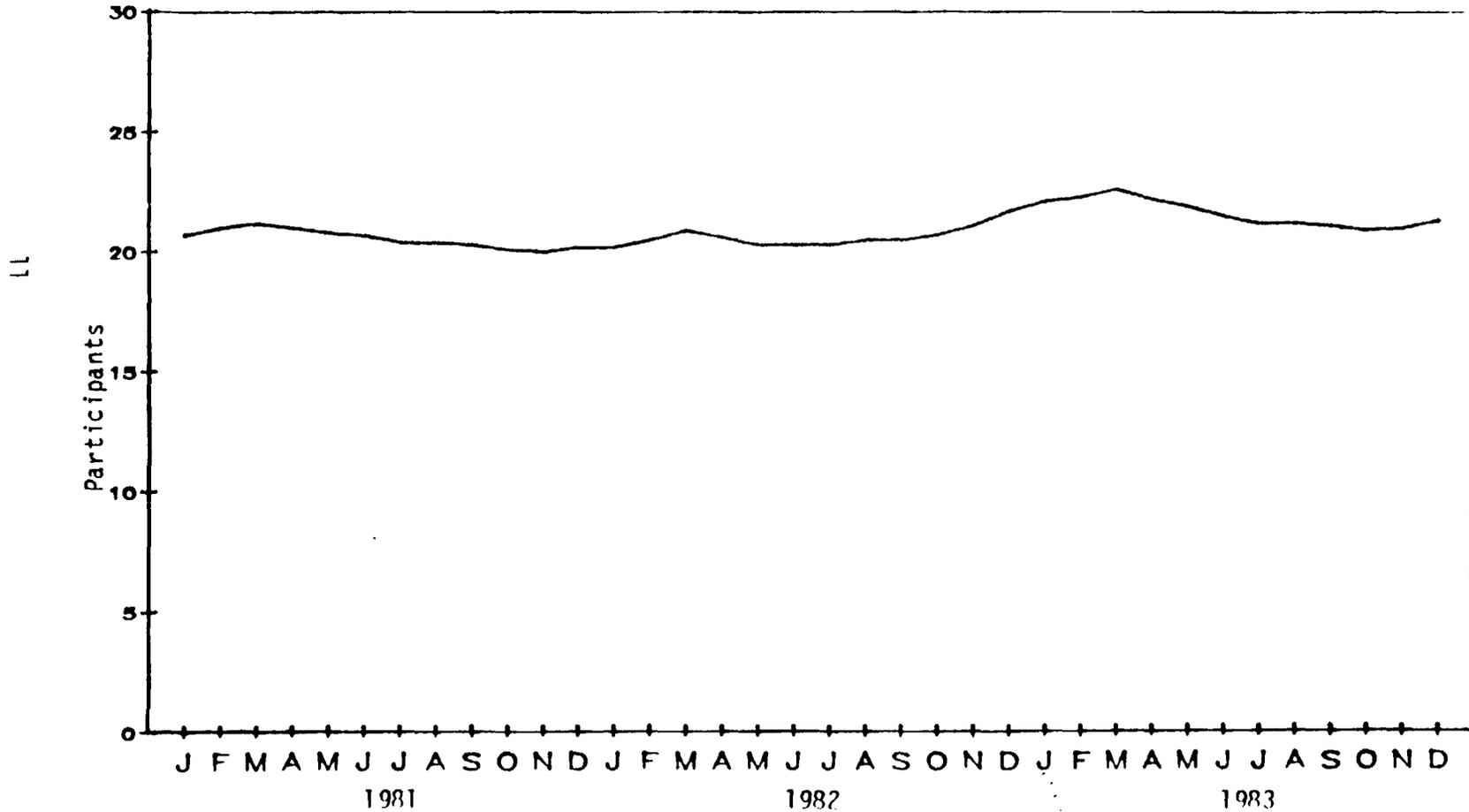
The maximum amount of food stamps a household could receive was equal to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), which is adjusted for household size, less 1 percent. The maximum allotments are revised periodically to reflect changes in the cost of foods included in the TFP. The maximum allotment for a family of four in the 48 States and the District of Columbia was \$253 per month in February 1983.⁴

The food stamp benefit issued to each household was based on the number of people in the household and the amount of net income available after subtracting the allowable deductions. Monthly

⁴Separate plans were developed for selected outlying areas. The maximum coupon allotment for each household size in the 48 States and the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the Virgin Islands are shown in appendix D.

FIGURE 1

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM PARTICIPATION,
1981--1983
(in millions)



Source: Food Stamp Program Statistical Summary of Operations.
Note: Participation counts include the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

benefits were equal to the maximum coupon allotment for that household less 30 percent of its net income. Benefits were prorated to the date of application during the initial month of participation. All one- and two-person households that qualified for the program, however, were guaranteed a minimum benefit of at least \$10 per month.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND COSTS

Participation in the Food Stamp Program declined between Fiscal Years 1981 and 1982, but reached an historic high level of 22.6 million persons in March 1983, one month after the survey month (see Figure 1). In Fiscal Year 1983 the Food Stamp Program issued more benefits to more people in the U.S. than ever before. There were 22.3 million persons participating in the Food Stamp Program in February 1983.

The distribution of the national caseload among geographic regions shifted significantly between Fiscal Year 1981 to 1983. The proportion of all participants living in the Midwest Region increased from 18 percent to 21 percent. Conversely, the percent of participants located in the three Eastern regions (Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast) dropped from 52 to 48 percent.

The increased number of participants and the TFP cost-of-living adjustment which was implemented in October 1982 caused total program costs to grow dramatically. Total Federal costs in Fiscal Year 1983 were \$11.9 billion, of which \$11.2 billion was

issued in benefits. The amount of food stamp benefits issued in Fiscal Year 1983 increased 17.0 percent, or \$1.6 billion from Fiscal Year 1982, and 41.9 percent or \$3.3 billion, from Fiscal Year 1980. Other program costs, which include State administrative expenses, increased \$80 million from \$626 million in Fiscal Year 1982, to \$706 million in Fiscal Year 1983. Total program costs were about \$1.036 billion for the month of February 1983 of which \$973 million were in the form of benefits. Benefits per person in February averaged \$43.65.

Much of the program growth in this period was due to deteriorating economic conditions (see table 1). On the other hand, program costs were restrained both by legislative changes (The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (OBRA) and the 1982 Amendments) and a moderation in food price inflation.

AN OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH 1983

The nation's overall economic climate affects the size and cost of the Food Stamp Program because 1) the program is countercyclical and 2) benefits and deductions are indexed. The economy in 1981, 1982, and 1983 exhibited tremendous swings--a major recession followed by a very rapid, strong recovery. Implementation of program changes in 1981 coincided with the onset of the recession. The unemployment rate was 7.3 percent at the enactment of OBRA, rose to 10.8 percent in December 1982 when the 1982 Amendments were being implemented, and dropped to 8.0

Table 1

Major Economic Indicators, 1978-1983
(Average annual rates in percent)

Economic Indicator	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Real GNP increase	5.0	2.8	-0.3	2.5	-2.1	3.7
Productivity increase ^a	0.5	-1.2	-0.5	1.9	0.2	2.7
Unemployment rate	6.1	5.8	7.1	7.6	9.7	9.6
Inflation rate ^b	7.4	8.6	9.2	9.6	6.0	3.8
Interest rates ^c	8.7	9.6	11.9	14.2	13.8	12.0

Source: Economic Report of the President, February 1985.

^aChange in output per hour, nonfarm business sector.

^bChange in implicit price deflator for gross national product.

^cCorporate Aaa bond yield.

percent by January 1984 (See Figure 2).

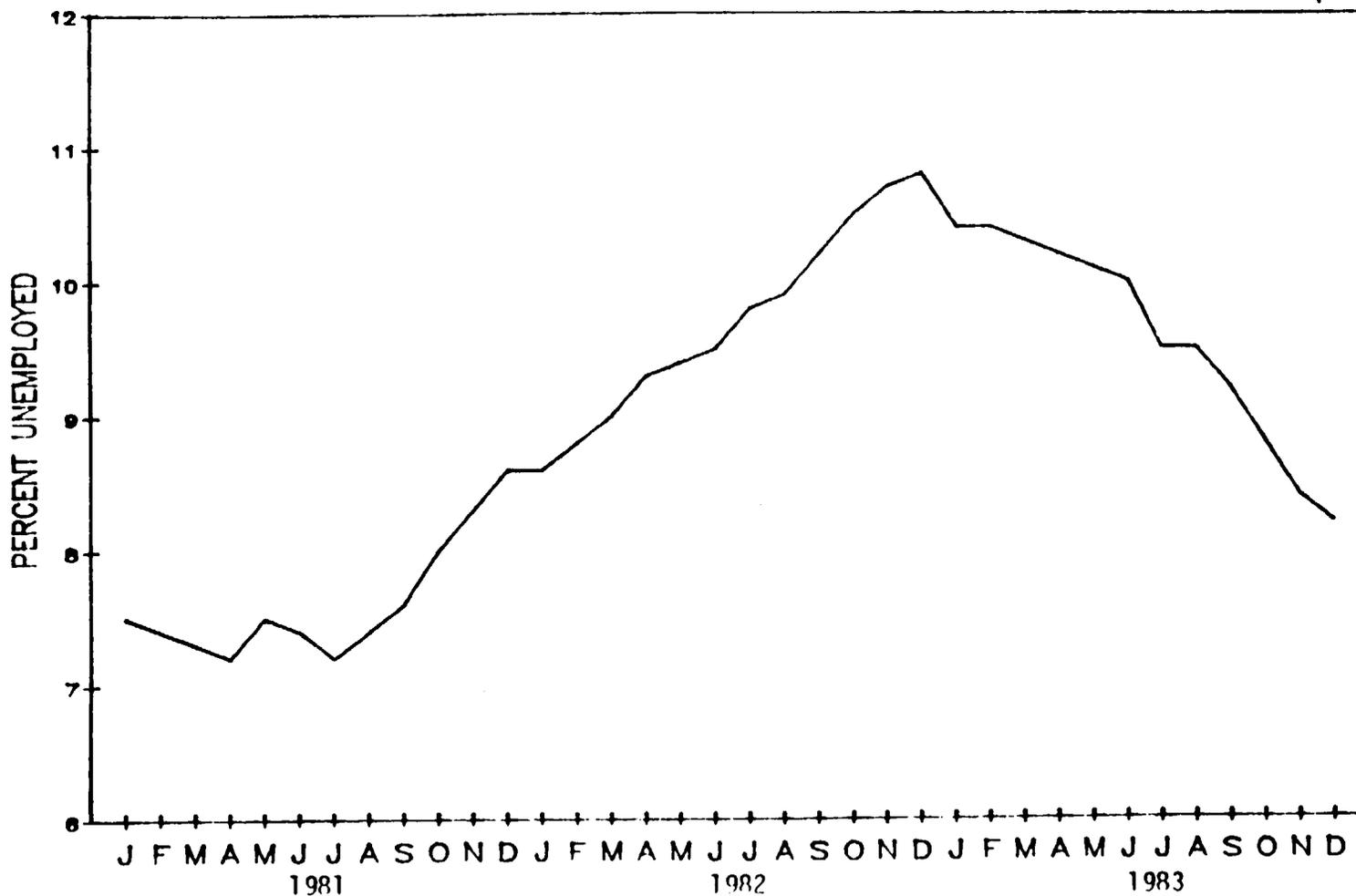
Inflation which had been at historically high rates before OBRA dropped rapidly. Reductions in the inflation rate, particularly in food prices, restrained growth in total program cost. It also reduced the expected impact of rescheduling cost-of-living updates to benefits.

The cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) for a family of four increased 11 percent from September 1979 to September 1980. However, in Fiscal Year 1981 the rate of price increase declined and the cost of the plan grew only 5 percent during the year. In some months of Fiscal Years 1982 and 1983, the cost of the TFP actually declined. Overall, the TFP increased just 2 percent over the course of Fiscal Year 1982 and 1 percent in Fiscal Year 1983. As a result of this moderation of food price inflation, and the program changes legislated in OBRA and the 1982 Amendments, the maximum allotment for a family of four was actually higher than the cost of the TFP for several months in Fiscal Year 1983.

The number of potential program eligibles increased as poverty rates, which had held steady at 12 percent from 1968 through 1979, increased to 13 percent in 1980, 14 percent in 1981, and 15 percent in 1982 and 1983 (table 2). Between 1982 and 1983, the number of poor persons rose slightly from 34.4 to 35.3 million. It should be noted, however, that Census figures overstate the number of persons eligible to receive food stamps, primarily

FIGURE 2

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1981--1983 (Seasonally adjusted)



16

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

Poverty Status of all Persons, 1981-83
(Number in thousands)

	1981	1982	1983
Number below 100 percent of poverty	31,822	34,398	35,266
Percentage of total population	14.0%	15.0%	15.2%
Number below 125 percent of poverty	43,748	46,520	47,124
Percentage of total population	19.3%	20.3%	20.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 145, Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1983 (Advance Data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey), Washington, D.C., 1984.

because they do not adjust for income eligible households who have assets exceeding the Food Stamp Program resource limits.

CHAPTER 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS

Approximately 22 million people in 8.0 million households received food stamp benefits in February 1983.⁵ This chapter addresses basic questions about the characteristics of these households by looking at their income, deductions, benefits, assets, and household composition in some detail. The results presented here portray a cross section of the program's caseload just after implementation of the Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1982 (P.L. 97-253). Most of the information in this chapter deals with characteristics of the entire food stamp household. In some cases, however, characteristics of individual participants are also presented. Additional information about each topic can be found in the detailed tabulations of chapter 4.

GROSS MONTHLY INCOME

The average gross income of all participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia was \$376 per month.⁶ Five percent reported no gross income in February 1983; over 60

⁵The information reported here and in Chapter 4 is limited to February 1983 food stamp participants in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. There were an additional 64,000 participants in Guam and the Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico, which until July 1982 had participated in the Food Stamp Program, served 1.6 million participants through its Nutrition Assistance Program.

⁶It should be noted that the statistics reported in this and subsequent sections are based on information recorded in food stamp casefiles by State eligibility workers. These figures have not been corrected for possible underreporting or nonreporting of income.

percent reported a monthly income of less than \$400 (see figure 3). Only 14 percent had monthly income in excess of \$600.

The distribution of gross income was heavily influenced by the large number of small households in the program. Over one-third of all the households with income below \$400 were single-person households. Over 90 percent of all single-person households had an income below \$400, compared to just 30 percent of those with at least five members. There were several reasons for this pattern. The food stamp income eligibility limits vary with household size, making small households ineligible at lower incomes than large households. Transfer payments from other welfare programs also tend to increase with household size. The average public assistance payment (including both AFDC and General Assistance) to food stamp households receiving such payments, for example, ranged from \$159 in one-person households to \$387 in households with eight or more persons. In addition, larger households were more likely to have earned income in substantial amounts; only 9 percent of the one-person households reported earnings, averaging \$203 per month, while 24 percent of the four-person households reported average earnings of \$547 per month, and 50 percent of the households with eight or more people reported earnings of \$657.

One way to account for the influence of household size on gross income is to examine the status of food stamp households with

FIGURE 3

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS BY MONTHLY INCOME: FEBRUARY 1983

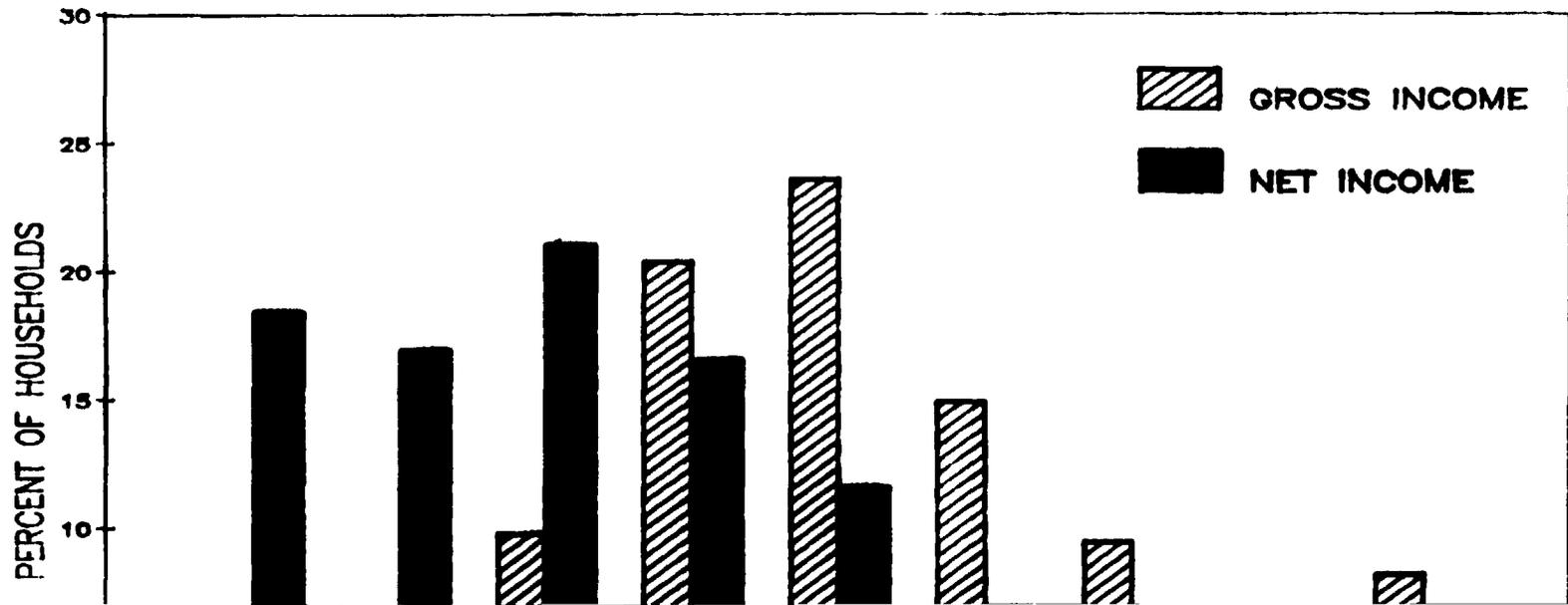


Table 3

Poverty Status of Food Stamp Households, February 1983

Gross income as a percentage of Poverty	Percent of all households	Cumulative percent
50% or less	36.9	36.9
51 to 100%	55.7	92.6
101% or more	7.5	100.0
Number of households (in thousands)	8,052	8,052

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

respect to the official definition of poverty.⁷ As shown in table 3, almost 37 percent of all food stamp households had total income that was less than or equal to half of the poverty guidelines; over 90 percent were below the poverty line.⁸

NET MONTHLY INCOME

A household's net income was determined by subtracting certain allowable deductions from its gross monthly income. The level of net income then determined the household's eligibility and monthly benefit. Average net income was \$208 per month in February 1983. Nearly one-fifth of all households had no net income after subtracting the allowable deductions from their gross income (see Figure 3). These households received the

⁷As noted above, the definition of poverty is adjusted for household size. The Office of Management and Budget poverty guidelines used by the Food Stamp Program in February 1983 are shown in appendix A. A word of caution is in order when comparisons are made to the poverty population defined by the Bureau of the Census. Census counts households as poor if their annual cash income falls below the poverty guidelines. In contrast, households were eligible for food stamps if their monthly cash income fell below the program's income limits. Because household income may vary from month to month, a household may be eligible for food stamps in one month, but ineligible the next. Therefore, some households eligible for food stamps for one or more months may have annual incomes above the poverty line. On the other hand, households with assets worth more than the food stamp asset limit could be ineligible for food stamps in any month, although their monthly and annual incomes were well below the poverty line.

⁸This distribution was affected by the timing of the survey month with respect to the most recent adjustment to the poverty line. As income grows over the course of a year, some households may rise above poverty when using monthly equivalents of the poverty standards. With the next cost-of-living adjustment to the poverty line, these households may again be classified as poor. Thus, the proportion of poor households will be highest immediately after each July adjustment and then decline the rest of the year.

maximum coupon allotment. Almost three-quarters of all participating households had net income less than \$300 per month, and 95 percent had net income under \$600 a month.

SOURCE OF INCOME

As table 4 shows, a large number of food stamp households also received cash benefits from at least one of the major income transfer programs (AFDC, Social Security, and SSI). At the same time, there was a substantial number of "working poor" households that supplemented limited earnings with food stamp benefits. Eighty-three percent of all households had income from at least one of these sources.

Aid to Families With Dependent Children

One-half of all food stamp households received AFDC benefits. On average, these households supplemented \$63 from other sources with a \$389 AFDC payment, for a total gross income of \$397 per month. Seventy-two percent of these households, however, had no income other than the AFDC grant. About 12 percent had earnings, 10 percent also received SSI, and 10 percent received Social Security or other retirement benefits.

Earned Income

About one-in-five of all food stamp households reported income from salaries, wages, and self-employment. Households with

Table 4
Major Sources of Income Among Food Stamp Households,
February 1983

(Number in thousands)

=====		
<u>Food stamp households</u>		
Source of income	Number	Percent ^a
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	4,023	50.0%
Earnings ^b	1,576	19.6
Social Security and Railroad Retirement	1,569	19.5
Supplemental Security Income	1,452	18.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aBecause households may have income from more than one source, these percentages are not additive.

^bIncludes wages, salaries, self-employment, and farm income.

earned income were generally larger and had substantially higher income than nonearners. The average household size for those with earnings was 3.7 people. Average earnings amounted to \$461 out of an average gross income of \$574 per month. About 49 percent of these households reported no income other than earnings. Approximately 32 percent received AFDC in addition to their earnings.

Social Security and Railroad Retirement

About 20 percent of all participating food stamp households received income from Social Security or Railroad Retirement income, averaging about \$303 per month. About 30 percent of these households had no other source of income; about 52 percent also received SSI.

Supplemental Security Income

Eighteen percent of all food stamp households received SSI payments. The average SSI benefit was \$205 per month. This was the only source of income for 23 percent of these households. Another 52 percent received SSI in combination with Social Security and other retirement benefits.

DEDUCTIONS FROM GROSS INCOME

The Food Stamp Act provides for standardized deductions from gross income when determining household eligibility and benefits.

In February 1983 these included a standard deduction for all households, earned income and dependent care deductions for the working poor, a medical deduction for the elderly and disabled, and an excess shelter expense deduction. The combined value of the dependent care and excess shelter deductions was capped for all nonelderly and nondisabled households. The deductions were designed to compensate for certain expenses which make gross income an inaccurate measure of the need for food stamp benefits.

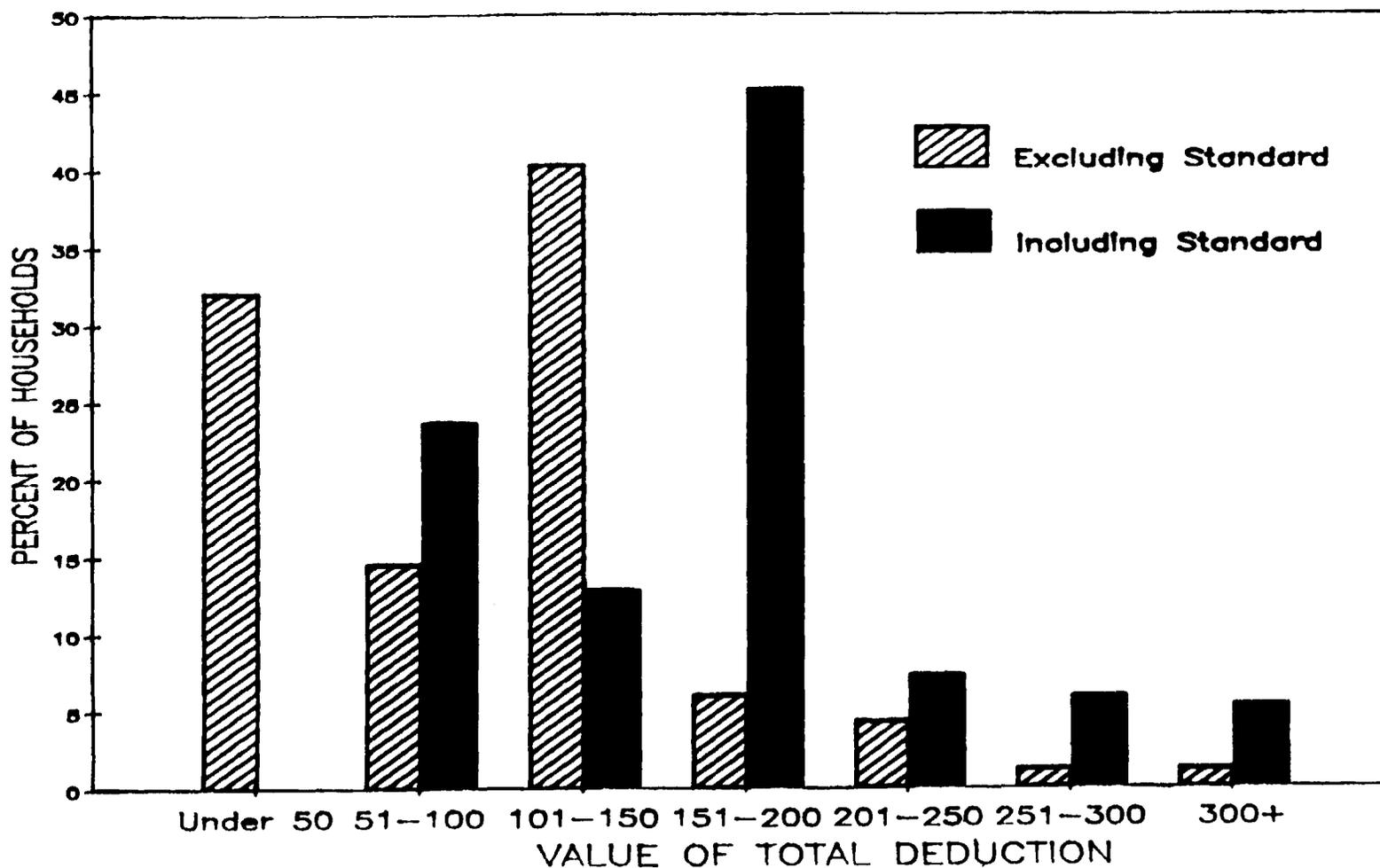
Almost 78 percent of all food stamp households claimed at least one deduction other than the standard. The average deduction to which households were entitled, including the value of the standard, was \$175 per month.⁹ The average entitlement for all deductions other than the standard was \$90 per month (see figure 4).

The frequency with which the different deductions were claimed varied considerably. The excess shelter deduction was claimed by nearly three-quarters of all participating households. The average value of the shelter deduction among those who claimed it

⁹A distinction should be made between a household's deduction entitlement and the amount actually used to compute food stamp benefits. The entitlement is the deduction that a household would receive on the basis of its earned income, dependent care costs, shelter costs, and medical expenses if the total of these allowable deductions was less than its gross income. Households with total deductions greater than their gross income "used" only a portion of their deduction entitlement since any negative net income were treated as zero in computing benefits. The value of the deductions actually used in February 1983, that is, the difference between average gross and average net income, was \$168, or 96 percent of the average total deduction entitlement of food stamp households.

FIGURE 4

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS BY VALUE OF ALL DEDUCTIONS



was \$100 per month. Thirty-four percent of all food stamp households (and almost 50 percent of those claiming the excess shelter deduction) were affected by the ceiling placed on the combined value of the dependent care and excess shelter deductions. Six percent of all food stamp households (30 percent of the elderly and disabled households), who were exempted from the ceiling, claimed a deduction above the cap. The average shelter deduction among these households was \$216 per month.

Approximately 20 percent of all food stamp households claimed the earned income deduction, averaging \$83 per month. When earned income was present, it was typically present in substantial amounts. Thus, many households with earnings were able to claim sizeable deductions: 37 percent were entitled to a deduction of more than \$100 a month.

Both the dependent care and medical deductions were used relatively infrequently. For those who were able to claim one or the other, however, they provided a substantial deduction from gross income. The dependent care deduction was claimed by about 2 percent of all participating households and by about 7 percent of those with earned income. Among those with the deduction, the average claim was \$82 per month. Similarly, the medical deduction was claimed by about 2 percent of all participating households but by about 10 percent of all households with elderly members. The average claim among those with the deduction was \$55.

FOOD STAMP BENEFITS

The average monthly food stamp benefit reported in this survey was \$127 per household (or about \$43.79 per person).¹⁰ One-half of all participating households received benefits between \$50 and \$150 per month. Nearly 5 percent of the households received the minimum \$10 benefit guaranteed to one- and two- person households. On the basis of their income alone, these households would have been entitled to an average monthly benefit of negative \$8.

About 90 percent of the households with minimum benefits had at least one elderly member. This high proportion of elderly households was caused by two characteristics. First, elderly participants were typically found in smaller households: 86 percent of the households with elderly contained only one or two persons. Second, households with elderly members were relatively better off than those with nonelderly members: the per capita gross and net incomes of elderly households were about 85 percent higher than those of households with no elderly. Thus, they were

¹⁰In comparison to the sample survey data reported here, Food Stamp Program administrative data for February 1983 show an average benefit of \$120.62 per household and \$43.66 per person (Management Information Data for September 1984, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, November 28, 1984). Most of the difference is due to sampling error. Because the February 1983 survey is based on a sample of food stamp households, there is some uncertainty associated with a point estimate such as average benefit. In addition, the population from which the Food Stamp Quality Control sample is selected excludes certain categories of households (see appendix E). If the average benefit among the excluded households is lower than average, estimates from the Quality Control sample will be higher than those from program data.

more likely to be protected by the minimum benefit than other households.

Effect on Poverty Status

The previous discussion of gross income levels showed that food stamp participants generally fell well below the poverty line. The official definition of poverty is based on the cash income of household members before taxes and after cash transfer payments, but it does not include the value of in-kind benefits such as food stamps. If the Food Stamp Program is viewed in the general context of income maintenance programs, however, it can be argued that food stamp benefits, which increase a household's total resources, should be included in any measurement of a household's poverty status. In this way, the effect of food stamp benefits in reducing the number of households in poverty can also be measured. Table 5 compares the poverty status of participating households before the transfer of food stamp benefits, based on cash income only, and after the transfer, counting the value of food stamps received along with cash income.¹¹

By counting food stamp benefits along with cash income, the percentage of food stamp households below the poverty line fell from 93 percent to 86 percent. In other words, 7 percent of the

¹¹This comparison assumes that program participants value their food stamp benefits at face value. For a general discussion of this and related issues, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Technical Paper No. 50, Alternative Methods for Valuing Selected In-Kind Transfer Benefits and Measuring Their Effect on Poverty, Washington, D.C., 1982.

Table 5
Effect of Food Stamp Benefits on Poverty Status of
Food Stamp Households, February 1983

Income as a percent of poverty	Distribution of households in <u>relation to poverty line</u>		Change in percentage points
	Based on cash only	Based on cash and food stamps	
50% or less	36.9%	10.0%	-26.9
51 to 100%	55.7	75.8	+20.1
101% or more	7.5	14.2	+6.7
Number of households (in thousands)	8,052	8,052	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

participating households were moved above the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit. Program benefits had an even greater effect on the poorest households; nearly 27 percent of the participating households were moved to at least half of the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit. The proportion of food stamp households above the poverty line doubled (from 7 to 14 percent) when food stamp benefits were counted, while the proportion remaining below half of the poverty line was reduced by nearly three-fourths (from 37 to 10 percent).

ASSETS

The February 1983 survey collected limited information on the assets of participating households. Almost 77 percent of the food stamp households had no assets counted toward the resource limit. Another 19 percent had countable assets of \$500 or less.

Households with elderly members had somewhat higher asset levels, but few had more than \$1,000 in countable resources in spite of a higher resource limit (\$3,000 for each household with at least two members). Across all households, countable assets averaged \$55 in February 1983, while households with elderly members had an average of \$143.

CASELOAD COMPOSITION

The average size of a food stamp household was about 2.9 persons in February 1983, but there was considerable variation among

different household types. The average for households with school age children, for example, was 4.0 persons. Both households with earned income and households with children had an average of 3.7 persons. Households with elderly contained an average of only 1.7 persons. About one-half of all food stamp households contained only one or two people.

The heads of food stamp households were predominantly female (71 percent). The typical household was headed by a woman, with an average age of 39 years. The average age of male household heads was 42 years. Overall, half of all household heads were between 26 and 53 years old. Forty-eight percent were white, 40 percent black, and about 10 percent were of Hispanic origin.

The age distribution of all people receiving food stamps was substantially different from the age distribution of household heads. Fifty-two percent of all food stamp participants were children 17 years old or younger. Another 7 percent were 60 years or older, and approximately 8 percent were disabled. Thus, 67 percent of all food stamp participants were either children, elderly, or disabled.

About 59 percent of all program participants were female. Female adults, ages 18 to 59 outnumbered their male counterparts by over 2 to 1. This in large part reflected the sizable number of food stamp households that also received AFDC. It also should be noted that the poverty rate among households headed by females in 1983 was 36 percent--more than twice the overall rate.

Households With Children

Over 85 percent of all food stamp benefits in February 1983 were issued to households with children, almost 70 percent of all participating households. These households were predominantly headed by women (76 percent).

Households with children were typically larger and had higher income than households without children. The average household size was 3.7 persons in those households with children, compared to an average of 1.3 persons in households without children. The average gross income among households with children was \$421 (\$113.78 per capita) per month, compared to \$276 (\$213.85 per capita) per month in those without children. Households with children received an average food stamp benefit of \$159 per month (or \$43 per person) while those without children received \$58 per month (or \$45 per person).

Over eighty percent of the households headed by women with children received public assistance. The average size of those households was 3.4 people. These households had an average gross income of \$379, an average net income of \$210, and an average monthly food stamp benefit of \$156 (or \$46 per person).

Households With Elderly

Households with elderly members accounted for 18 percent of the total food stamp caseload in February 1983 but since they were

smaller on average and had relatively higher income, they received just 8 percent of all benefits issued that month. Almost half of all one-person households were elderly (that is, single elderly persons living alone or certified as a separate food stamp unit within a larger household). Eighty percent of all elderly participants either lived by themselves or with one other person. Nearly 70 percent of all elderly households were headed by women, about 51 percent were single elderly women living alone and the remainder were living with others.

After adjusting for the differences in household size, households with elderly members had relatively higher income than those without elderly members. Only 8 percent had a gross income below half of the poverty line. Average gross income per person was nearly twice as high among the elderly--\$218 versus \$118 per month.

Similarly, the average net income of \$122 per person in elderly households was double the \$65 per person found in other households. Thus average benefits per person were about 25 percent less among the elderly--\$34 versus \$45 per month. Almost 20 percent of the households with elderly members received the minimum \$10 benefit, compared to 1 percent of the households without elderly persons.

About 91 percent of the elderly households had income from either Social Security, Railroad Retirement or SSI. About 37 percent had income from both. As a result of this coverage, elderly

households were less likely than nonelderly households (2 percent versus 6 percent) to report the absence of all income. Only 6 percent of the households with elderly reported earned income, however.

Households With Earned Income

Twenty percent of all food stamp households reported earned income in February 1983. They received a proportionate share (21 percent) of the benefits issued that month. About 7 percent of all household heads were employed in full-time jobs (that is, working at least 30 hours per week). Another 4 percent were working part time and less than one percent were self-employed. Someone other than the household head was the primary wage earner in the remaining households.

As noted in the earlier discussion of income sources, households with earned income were generally larger than average and somewhat more likely to include children. Consequently their gross income was substantially larger than that of households without earnings (\$550 versus \$336). They received an average per capita benefit of about \$36, compared to \$45 among households without earned income.

OTHER PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

Work Registration

Able-bodied food stamp participants 18 or older and less than 60 years of age were required to register for work and accept employment if offered. Table 6 shows that nearly 48 percent of all adult participants under the age of 60 were either employed full time or met the work registration requirements of the Food Stamp Program, AFDC, or unemployment insurance (UI). Just under 40 percent of all the adults in the program were exempted from work registration because they were responsible for the care of young children or incapacitated adults. About 10 percent of the adults were exempted because of disability. Of all food stamp participants, 62 percent were exempted on the basis of their age or disability. This reflects the large number of children and elderly participants in the Food Stamp Program. The second most frequent exemption, for caretakers of children and incapacitated adults, accounted for 16 percent of all participants. About 7 percent of all food stamp participants were registered for work. Approximately 3 percent of all households with work registrants had more than one.

Expedited Service

Expedited service requirements were tightened during the period between the February 1982 and February 1983 surveys. Prior to the 1982 Amendments, a household was required to have net income

Table 6
Work Registration Status of Food Stamp Participants, February 1983

Work registration status	Percentage of adult participants ^a (18-59 years)	Percentage of all participants
<u>Meeting work requirement:</u>		
Registered for work	16.2	6.6
Exempted from food stamp registration:		
Employed full time	7.5	3.0
WIN participants	20.5	8.5
UI recipients	3.9	1.6
<u>Exempted from work requirement:</u>		
Caretakers of children and incapacitated adults	39.2	16.0
Residents of drug addiction/ alcohol treatment center	0.5	0.1
Students	1.2	2.2
Less than 18 or over 60 years old ^c	10.4	61.9
Total number of participants ^b (in thousands)	9,305	23,924

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPercent of those participants with known work registration status.

^bTotal number of adult participants includes approximately 587,000 participants whose work registration status was not recorded. Total number of all participants includes approximately 987,000 participants with unknown work registration status.

^cFor adults the figure includes disabled participants only.

of zero and no anticipated source of income in the near future to receive expedited service. Potential expedited service households were subject to the same asset limits as non-expedited service households: \$3,000 for households of two or more with an elderly member and \$1,500 for all other households. In February 1983, households needed gross monthly income under \$150 and liquid resources of \$100 or less to receive expedited service processing. Households which met these requirements and were otherwise eligible were entitled to receive their food stamp benefits within five days. (During the August 1982 survey month a 3 day delivery rule was in effect. The normal application processing standard was 30 days.) Of the 604,280 applications approved in February 1983, 146,419 (or 24 percent) were approved under the expedited procedures. While this is a substantial portion of the approved applications, the number of households that received expedited service was 2 percent of the total number of households participating that month.

The characteristics of these households that received expedited service in February 1983 reflected the eligibility requirements for expedited service. The average gross income of \$97 per month was one-fourth the average for all households. Forty-five percent of these households reported no income at all.

Similarly, their average net income of \$32 per month was about 15 percent of the overall average, and 84 percent had no net income after taking the allowable deductions. Their average benefit was \$127 per month. It should be noted that this average includes households that would have had their first month's benefits

Certification periods assigned to households that had been previously certified for food stamps, while not substantially different, tended to be somewhat longer than those assigned to households applying for the first time (see table 7). The length of the certification period did depend on the characteristics of the household. The average period was 10 months for households with elderly members and 8 months for those with children. Households receiving public assistance had an average period of 9 months, while those with earned income were certified for an average of 6 months. Households that were given expedited service in February 1983 were certified for just over 4 months.

Table 7
Average Length of Certification Period, February 1983
(In months)

	Initial application	Recertification	All households
Households With:			
Elderly	9.6	10.6	10.4
Public assistance	9.9	8.6	8.9
Children	7.7	7.8	7.7
Earned income	5.4	5.8	5.7
Expedited service	3.7	---	3.7
All households	7.8	8.3	8.2

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

CHAPTER 3: CHANGES IN FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

This chapter describes some of the changes in the composition and circumstances of the food stamp caseload from 1982 to 1983 by looking at survey results from February 1982 and February 1983. As noted in chapter 1, legislative changes enacted in the Food Stamp Program altered eligibility rules and benefit calculations. At the same time the economy was experiencing high and rising unemployment in conjunction with stable prices, particularly for food. This chapter examines how the characteristics of program participants changed over this period of time. Four specific areas of change are examined: income, deductions, average benefits, and household composition.

Several factors should be considered when interpreting the results presented here. Because this analysis is based on a cross-sectional sample, it cannot determine whether differences in caseload characteristics are due to changes in the circumstances of continuing participants, to changes in the circumstances of new participants or some combination of both. Nor can a cross-sectional analysis disaggregate the separate impacts of food stamp legislation, changes in other related social programs or changes in the economy. A longitudinal sample, which tracks household characteristics over time, is a

better measure of these effects as well as changes in the behavior of individual participants.¹³

In addition, a new survey instrument to collect Quality Control data was introduced in October 1982. This reduces comparability between the files for the two reasons: the information is collected in a slightly different manner and data collection errors may have occurred due to unfamiliarity with the new form. Finally, preliminary data from August 1983 and August 1984 produce results more in line with February 1982 than those from the February 1983 file. This further suggests that the February 1983 numbers should be interpreted with caution.

CHANGES IN INCOME

Surveys of food stamp participants conducted by FNS since 1975 have shown that increases in the average income of food stamp households have consistently fallen behind increases in prices.¹⁴ As a result, average household income declined in constant dollar terms. In February 1983, however, this pattern was reversed. Table 8 shows that average monthly gross income rose from \$345 per household in February 1982 to \$376 in February 1983, a nominal increase of 9 percent. After adjusting for the change in

¹³See The Effects of Legislative Changes in 1981 and 1982 on the Food Stamp Program Volume I. Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, May 1985. The report examines changes in food stamp participant characteristics using a longitudinal sample extracted from food stamp case records.

¹⁴See, for example, Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: August 1980 with Comparison 1975-1980, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, December 1981.

Table 8

Average Nominal and Real Monthly Income of Food Stamp
Participants February 1982 and February 1983

	February 1982	February 1983		Percentage Change	
		Nominal	Real ^a	Nominal	Real ^a
<u>Average gross income</u>					
Per household	\$345	\$376	\$363	+9.0%	+5.2%
Per person	123	130	126	+5.7	+2.4
<u>Average net income</u>					
Per household	190	208	201	+9.5	+5.8
Per person	68	72	70	+5.9	+2.9

Source: February 1982, February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

^aReal income in constant February 1982 dollars; adjusted by change in CPI for all items between February 1982 and February 1983.

the Consumer Price Index (CPI), real gross income rose 5 percent. Part of the increase in average gross income can be explained by the increase in average household size (from 2.8 to 2.9 persons) because larger households typically have higher average incomes. As indicated in table 8, real average gross income per person grew at less than half the rate (2.4 percent) of real average household income. During the same period, per capita real disposable personal income increased by slightly over one percent nationwide. Thus the average real income of food stamp participants increased at a much faster pace than did average income in the country as a whole.

The distribution of real gross household income, shown in table 9, reflects the rise in average real gross income. The percentage of households with real gross income greater than \$500 increased from 19 to 21 percent. The median real gross income per household rose from \$312 to \$329, a change of 5 percent. As noted previously, this is explained in part by the increase in average gross household size. The distribution of households with respect to the official poverty guidelines as shown in table 10, presents a somewhat different picture. Because the poverty line varies by household size and is adjusted each year to reflect changes in the cost of living, this standard also provides a measure of real changes in income. The picture here is one of fewer households at the high end of the income eligibility spectrum and an increase in the proportion of very poor households. The percentage of households with gross income less than or equal to half the poverty line increased from 33 to

Table 9

Distribution of Participating Food Stamp Households by
Real Gross Monthly Income, February 1982 and February 1983

Value of Real Gross Income ^a	Percent of all households	
	February 1982	February 1983
None	7.3	5.4
\$ 1 - 249	21.2	23.0
250 - 499	52.3	50.4
500 - 749	14.5	15.8
750 - 999	3.7	4.2
1000+	1.0	1.2
Number of households (in thousands)	7,565	8,052
Median income	\$312	\$329

Source: February 1982; February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

^aTotal gross income in constant February 1982 dollars; adjusted by change in CPI for all items between February 1982 and February 1983.

Table 10

Comparison of Poverty Status of Participating
Households, February 1982 and February 1983

(Percent of all households)

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	February 1982	February 1983
50% or less	32.8	36.9
51 - 100%	58.9	55.7
101 - 150%	8.1	7.4
151% or more	0.1	0.1
Number of households (in thousands)	7,565	8,052

Source: February 1982, February 1983 Food Stamp Quality
Control samples.

37 percent, while the percentage of households above the poverty line declined slightly from 8.2 to 7.5 percent.

The low rate of inflation helped preserve the real incomes of food stamp participants. Table 11 displays the change in average nominal and real income from the four most frequent sources of income among food stamp households: AFDC (present in 50 percent of all food stamp households in February 1983), Social Security and Railroad Retirement Income (present in 20 percent of all households), Supplemental Security Income (present in 18 percent of all households), and wages and salaries (present in 19 percent of all households).¹⁵ Automatic cost-of-living adjustments to Social Security and SSI payments protected the purchasing power of many elderly and disabled food stamp participants: the real value of SSI benefits among food stamp households increased by 7 percent while Social Security and other retirement benefits remained constant in real terms. As noted in chapter 2, approximately 91 percent of the food stamp households with elderly members received either Social Security or SSI. In contrast to recent trends, real AFDC income increased slightly. Wage and salary income which decreased in recent food stamp characteristic surveys rose by 6 percent.

Average net income--gross income less allowable deductions--grew by 10 percent. Net income increased more rapidly than gross income because the average value of deductions claimed by food stamp households did not keep pace with the growth in gross

Table 11

Average Nominal and Real Monthly Income From Selected
Sources February 1982 and February 1983

Source of income	February 1982	February 1983		Percentage Change	
		Nominal	Real ^a	Nominal	Real ^a
Wages and salaries	\$420	\$461	\$446	+9.8%	+6.2%
AFDC	314	326	315	+3.8	+0.3
Social Security and Railroad Retirement	293	303	293	+3.4	0.0
SSI ^b	185	205	198	+10.8	+7.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aReal income adjusted by change in CPI for all items between February 1982 and February 1983.

^bFor 1983 sample, SSI recipients receiving State supplements only are excluded from this category.

income. This was due primarily to provisions of the 1981 and 1982 food stamp legislation which postponed scheduled cost-of-living adjustments for deductions. This is discussed in more detail in the following section.

Real net income also grew faster than real gross income. The distribution of households by the real value of net income (table 12) illustrates this upward shift. Median real net income in February 1982 was \$154. By February 1983, the median had increased 6 percent to \$163 in constant February 1982 dollars.

CHANGES IN DEDUCTIONS

Nominal average deductions increased 4.8 between February 1982 and February 1983. This was due primarily to two factors: 1) increased shelter costs created larger potential deductions and 2) higher gross incomes permitted a higher percentage of potential deductions to be taken. Growth in average deductions was restrained by a legislated freeze on the standard deduction and the excess shelter/dependent care deduction cap at their January 1981 levels of \$85 and \$134, respectively. In the absence of a freeze, the deductions would have been updated in January 1982 and January 1983.

The effect of the freeze and the increase in gross income is evident when comparing the percentage of deduction "used" to the

¹⁵As noted in chapter 3, 17 percent of all food stamp households reported earned income of all types including, in addition to wages and salaries, self-employment earnings and farm income.

Table 12

Distribution of Participating Food Stamp Households by
Real Net Monthly Income, February 1982 and February 1983

Value of Real Net Monthly Income ^a	Percent of all households	
	February 1982	February 1983
None	19.7	18.4
\$ 1 - 249	50.2	48.4
250 - 499	23.7	25.2
500 - 749	4.9	6.6
750 - 999	1.3	1.2
1000+	0.2	0.3
Number of households (in thousands)	7,565	8,052
Median income	\$154	\$163

Source: February 1982, February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

^aReal net income in constant February 1982 dollars; adjusted by change in CPI for all items between February 1982 and February 1983.

entitlement deduction. In February 1982, 93 percent of the potential or entitlement deduction was claimed, by the following year the ratio had risen to 96 percent.¹⁶

As table 13 shows, the percentage of food stamp households that claimed each deduction changed slightly between February 1982 and February 1983. The most frequently used deduction--with the exception of the standard available to every household--was the excess shelter deduction, claimed by about three-fourths of the participating households. The value of the shelter deduction, averaged over those households that claimed it, increased about 9 percent, from \$92 to \$100 per month. The earned income deduction was claimed by 20 percent of all food stamp households; its average value actually increased 9 percent, reflecting a rise in average earnings. Both the dependent care and the medical deduction resulted in substantial deductions when they were claimed--an average of \$82 and \$55 per month, respectively, in February 1983. However, because so few households claimed these particular deductions, they did not have much impact on the overall level of deductions.

Given the frequency with which the excess shelter deduction was claimed, it is useful to look at it in some detail. The rise in

¹⁶It is important to recall the distinction between the deduction to which a household was entitled and the deduction actually used (or claimed) to compute food stamp benefits (see footnote 9). The average amount households could actually claim, given their gross income, rose from \$155 in February 1982 to \$168 in February, an increase of \$15. The average deduction to which they were entitled, however, rose from \$167 to \$175, an increase of \$8 (or about 5 percent after accounting for the effects of inflation).

Table 13

Frequency and Value of Deductions From Gross Income
February 1982 and February 1983

Type of deduction	Percent of households With deduction		Average value of deduction ^b		Percent Change
	February 1982	February 1983	February 1982	February 1983	
Standard	100%	100%	\$85	\$85	0.0
Earned Income	20	20	76	83	+9.2
Dependent Care	2	2	84	82	-2.4
Excess Shelter	71	74	92	100	+8.7
Medical	2	2	56	55	-1.8
Total Deduction ^a					
Excluding standard	74	78	82	90	+9.8
Including standard	100	100	167	175	+4.8
Number of Households (in thousands)	7,565	8,052			

Source: February 1982, February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

^aAverage total deduction to which households were entitled. The average deduction actually claimed was \$155 in February 1982, \$168 in February 1983.

^bFor households claiming the deduction.

the average value of the excess shelter deduction (9 percent) was consistent with the growth in various indexes of shelter costs. The CPI for housing rose by 4 percent between February 1982 and February 1983. The residential rent and the fuel and other utilities components of this index rose by 7 percent and 8 percent, respectively, over the same period.

The average deduction should have grown--and eventually approached the shelter cap--as average shelter expenses grew because of the way the shelter deduction is computed. Furthermore since the excess shelter deduction cap was frozen at the January 1981 level it should have restricted the size of this increase. This is evident in table 14. The percentage of households with a deduction equal to the cap--meaning that there deduction was constrained--increased from 31 to 36 percent. Shelter expenses for this group of households increased by five percent, while their average shelter deduction increased by only one-tenth of a percent.

Table 14 is also interesting in another respect. Average shelter costs and shelter deductions for all households increased on average by 14 and 12 percent respectively, between February 1982 and February 1983, while the change in any one category (none, below the cap, etc.) was no greater than 10 percent. This seeming incongruence is explained by the fact that there are many more households, both in percentage and absolute terms, in the Equal to Cap and Greater than Cap categories in February 1983 than there were in February 1982. The heavy presence of

Table 14

Change in Average Shelter Costs and Deductions Between February 1982
and February 1983 for Households with a Shelter Deduction

Value of combined dependent care/excess shelter deduction	Percentage of all households		Change in average shelter cost		Change in average shelter deduction		Percentage of shelter cost allowed for deduction	
	February 1982	February 1983	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	February 1982	February 1983
None	28.1%	24.9%	\$10.13	10.3%	0	0		
Less than cap	36.1	30.0	15.97	9.2%	6.90	1.2	33.5%	35.2%
Equal to cap	30.8	35.5	16.53	4.8	.08	0.1	33.7	36.8
Greater than cap	5.0	6.2	28.57	8.8	8.23	4.0	64.5	62.1
Number of households with shelter deduction (in thousands)	5,256	5,777	29.15	14.0	7.98	12.2	31.5	30.2

Source: February 1982, February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

households in these two categories raised the average shelter deduction for the entire caseload.

CHANGES IN BENEFITS

Average per capita benefits are a function of net income and the maximum Thrifty Food Plan amount. Because net income is calculated by subtracting allowable deductions from gross income, changes in average gross income or deductions will have an effect on average benefits. Over the period from February 1982 to February 1983, the average monthly food stamp benefit increased considerably, from \$110 to \$127 per household. This overall increase in the average benefit was caused primarily by the update of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) in October 1982. Over the long run, adjustments maintain the real value or purchasing power of the food stamp allotment for households with constant real economic circumstances. The TFP had been frozen at \$233 by legislation since January 1981. When it was updated in October 1982 to \$253, this caught up for food price changes between December 1980 and June 1982. This explains why the increase in the maximum TFP between February 1982 and February 1983 is much larger than any measure of price increase over the same period.

Table 15 shows the change in the distribution of food stamp benefits that occurred between February 1982 and February 1983. Even after accounting for the effect of food price inflation, the

Table 15

Distribution of Participating Households by Amount
of Monthly Food Stamp Benefit, February 1982 and February 1983

Average monthly food stamp benefit	Nominal benefits		Real benefits ^a
	February 1982	February 1983	February 1983
\$50 or less	21%	17%	17%
51 to 100	30	26	26
101 to 150	24	23	24
151 to 200	14	18	18
201 or more	11	16	15
Number of households (in thousands)	7,565	8,052	
Median benefit	\$98	\$115	\$114

Source: February 1982, February 1983 Food Stamp Quality
Control sample.

^aReal benefit in constant February 1982 dollars; adjusted by
change in CPI for food at home since February 1982.

distribution of real benefits still shifted upward.¹⁷ In real terms, the median household benefit rose from \$98 to \$115 over the period.¹⁸

A different kind of picture is available from reported figures on monthly Food Stamp Program participation and average benefits. Figure 5 shows the average monthly benefit per person, in both nominal and real terms, from February 1980 to February 1983.

This figure provides a graphic illustration of the cyclical pattern in average monthly food stamp benefits--characterized by sharp upward jumps with each cost-of-living adjustment followed by a gradual decline until the next adjustment--as well as the longer run increasing trend in both nominal and real average benefits. Roughly speaking, the longer run trend can be observed by comparing benefit levels in the periodic update months. (January 1980, January 1981, and October 1982).

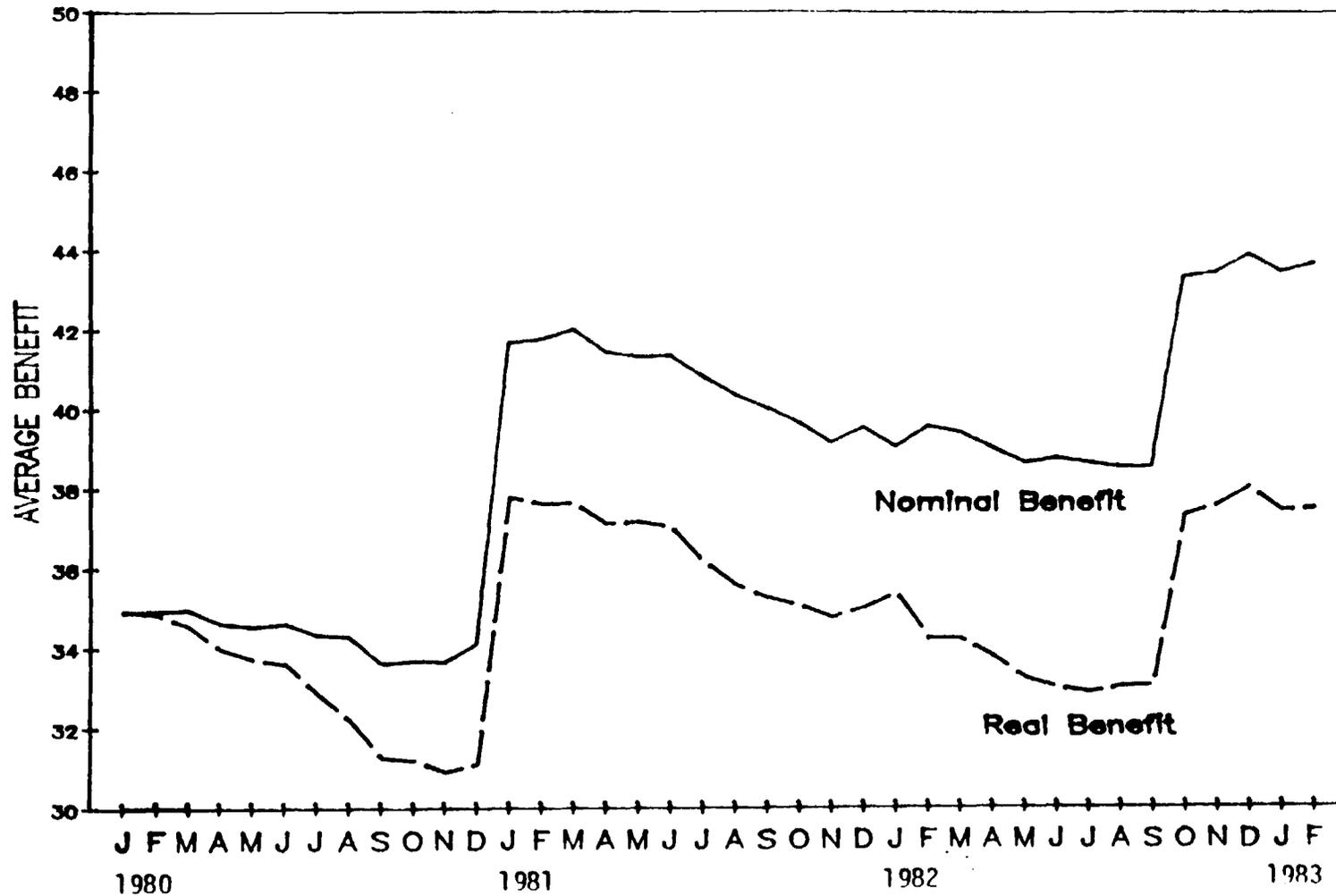
Between February 1982 and February 1983, the maximum coupon allotment for a family of four increased substantially more than the CPI for food at home (9 percent compared to 1 percent). This is due to a combination of two factors, the previously mentioned TFP update and a fall in the cost of food at home. Between June

¹⁷Throughout this section, real February 1982 benefits have been adjusted to constant dollars using the CPI for food at home unless otherwise noted.

¹⁸The increase in real median benefit was due, in part, to an increase in average household size. This is discussed in greater detail below.

FIGURE 5

AVERAGE FOOD STAMP BENEFIT PER PERSON 1980--1983



Source: Food Stamp Program Statistical Summary of Operations.
Note: Real value of food stamp benefits adjusted by change in CPI for Food at Home since January 1980.

of 1982, the month on which the update was based and February 1983, the CPI for food at home fell by one percent.

Table 16 presents average gross and net incomes, deductions and benefits adjusted by the change in the CPI for all items between February 1982 and February 1983. It shows a substantial increase in the average real gross income of food stamp households (up 5 percent), an increase in the average real value of total deductions claimed (up 1 percent), and a rise in average real net income (up 6 percent) in constant February 1982 dollars.

Although average benefit measured at the household level exhibits a clear rise between February 1982 and February 1983, it obscures a number of factors, which disaggregated placed both upward and downward pressure on average per person benefit. Table 17 shows that average per capita nominal food stamp benefits increased \$3.87 net of all factors causing it to rise or to decrease. The major factor contributing to the rise in per capita nominal benefits was the increase in the maximum coupon allotment. If all other factors had been held constant the increase in the maximum coupon allotment would have caused a \$5.40 increase in average nominal per capita benefit.

Increases in average household gross income had the opposite effect and caused average per capita nominal benefits to fall \$3.02, all other factors held constant. The rise in average household size from 2.8 to 2.9 persons had two separate effects on per capita benefits, one positive and the other negative. The

Table 16

Sources of Change in Average Food Stamp Benefits

	Nominal Values			Real Values	
	February 1982	February 1983	Percentage Change	February 1983	Percentage Change
Average gross income	\$345	\$376	+9.0	\$363	+5.2
Average total deduction	\$167	\$175	+4.8	\$169	+1.2
Average net income	\$190	\$208	+9.5	\$201	+5.8
Average household benefit	\$110	\$127	+15.5	\$123	+11.8
Maximum coupon allotment (for family of four)	\$233	\$253	+8.6	\$245	+5.2
Consumer Price Index					
All items	283.4	293.2	+3.5		
All items less food	282.1	292.6	+3.7		
Food at home	278.0	280.3	+0.8		

Source: February 1982, February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

^aReal values are in constant February 1982 dollars adjusted by changes in the CPI for all items between February 1982 and February 1983.

Table 17

Decomposition of the Change in the Average Per Capita Nominal Food Stamp Benefit Between February 1982 and February 1983

Sources of Change in the Average Per Capita Nominal Food Stamp Benefit	Estimated Amount of Change	Percentage of Total Change
1. Increase in coupon allotment for household of 4.	\$5.40	139.5%
2. Decrease in average value of scaling factor, primarily due to upward shift in size distribution of households.	(.47)	(12.1)
3. Increase in deductions.	.76	19.6
4. Increase in gross income.	(3.02)	(78.0)
5. Increase in average household size, controlling for change in average scaling factor. ^a	1.20	31.0
Total (approximated change in average per capita nominal benefit). ^b	\$3.87	100.0

^aWhen the average household size increases, holding the average scaling factor and the coupon allotment for a four person household constant, the average household coupon allotment increases in the same proportion and hence is not a source of change in the average per capita benefit. However, average per capita net income decreases, *ceteris paribus*, as average household size increases. This decreases the average per capita implicit food stamp tax, and thus increases the average per capita nominal benefit.

^bThe change in the average reported per capita nominal food stamp benefit between February 1982 and February 1983 was \$3.19. The \$.68 difference between the approximated change and the reported change is the net error of the decomposition procedure.

increase in household size, controlling for TFP scaling factors, caused average per capita net income to decrease, and led to an increase in average benefit. The increase was offset somewhat by the TFP average scaling factors. The TFP for each household size is adjusted relative to the four person household coupon allotment to reflect economies of scale in purchasing and preparing food. The scaling factor ranges from 120 percent of the four person per capita allotment for a single person household to 90 percent for households with seven or more persons. The scaling factors caused a \$.47 decrease in average per capita nominal benefits. The final factor contributing to change in benefits was the increase in average deduction which caused a \$.76 rise in average per capita nominal benefits.

CHANGES IN HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

From late 1979-1982 the basic character of the food stamp population remained essentially stable. As indicated in table 18, the distribution of the caseload among the major target groups identified in chapter 3 shifted in February 1983. As noted in the introduction, the Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS) revised the data collection instrument used in the Quality Control system. This may account for, in part, some of the difference between the February 1982 and February 1983 characteristics.¹⁹

¹⁹Some of the difference in the percentage of households reporting presence of income from various sources between the February 1982 and February 1983 files may be due to differences in the treatment of missing values in the two files. See Appendix E for a more detailed explanation.

Table 18

Changes in Food Stamp Caseload Composition
February 1982 and February 1983

(Numbers in thousands)

Major household type	Distribution of Households				Percentage Change in Number of Households
	Number February 1982	Percent February 1982	Number February 1983	Percent February 1983	
Families with female head and dependent children	3,475	45.9	4,250	52.8	+22.3
Households with earners	1,373	18.5	1,576	19.6	+15.8
Households with elderly	1,411	18.6	1,459	18.1	+3.4
All households	7,565		8,052		+6.4

Source: February 1982, February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

^aColumns do not add to total because some food stamp households belong to more than one or to none of the categories included in the table.

WOMEN WITH CHILDREN

The number of food stamp households with female heads and dependent children increased from 3.5 million to 4.3 million between February 1982 and February 1983, a 22-percent increase.

Since this increase was faster than the overall growth in the program, the proportion of such households in the food stamp caseload increased from 46 to 53 percent. The large increase in the number of female headed households is not supported by Census data. The number of persons in households below the poverty line with a female head and children present grew by 3 percent between 1982 and 1983.²⁰ It is likely that the size of the increase is related to a change in the IQCS survey collection instrument.²¹

HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY

In February 1982 there were approximately 1.4 million elderly households in the FSP and 1.5 million in February 1983. Given the overall growth in the program, however, the proportion of elderly households dropped from 19 to 18 percent. This is consistent with an overall decrease in the poverty rate among the elderly. Between 1980 and 1983 the poverty rate for persons 65 years old and over fell from 15.7 to 14.1 percent.

²⁰U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No., 134, Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1983 (Advance Data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey), Washington, D. C. 1984.

²¹See Appendix E for a more detailed explanation.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH EARNINGS

The number of food stamp households with earned income grew by 15 from 1.4 million households in February 1982 to 1.3 million in February 1983. Much of this increase is due to overall growth in the number of participants. The proportion of households with earned income increased slightly from 19 to 20 percent. appeared in the August 1982 survey.

CHAPTER 4: DETAILED TABLES FOR THE 50 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In the pages that follow, detailed tabulations of the characteristics of food stamp households and participants are presented. These tables are roughly ordered to provide information on the following topics:

- o Average amounts and sources of income, both gross and net.
- o Frequency and average amount of deductions from gross income.
- o Average amount of monthly food stamp benefits.
- o Average amount of countable resources.
- o Age, race, and sex of food stamp participants.
- o Employment and work registration status of food stamp participants and household heads.
- o Summary statistics for households with earned income, with elderly members, with disabled members, with children, and with school-age children.
- o Summary comparisons of survey results in August 1980, August 1981, August 1982, February 1982, and February 1983.

The reference population for each table, unless otherwise noted, is the food stamp caseload in the 50 States and the District of Columbia in February 1983.

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Table 1
AGGREGATE FEBRUARY 1983 PARTICIPATION TOTALS

Area	Number of Households (000)	Number of People (000)	Value of Benefits (000)
United States	8,051	22,228	\$969,629
Continental U.S.	8,003	22,097	961,682
Alaska, Hawaii	48	130	8,947
Outlying Areas ^a	14	64	3,686
Total	8,066	22,291	\$973,315

Source: Food Stamp Program Statistical Summary of Operations, February 1983.

^aIncludes participants in Guam, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Marianas. Participants in the Puerto Rico Nutrition Assistance Program are not included.

Table 2

AVERAGE VALUES OF SELECTED NATIONAL
CASELOAD CHARACTERISTICS

	All Households
Gross Monthly Income	\$376
Net Monthly Income	\$208
Total Deduction ^a	\$175
Countable Resources	\$55
Monthly Benefit	\$127
Household Size	2.9
Certification Period	8.2

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction. Value of standard deduction and limit on combined dependent care/excess shelter deduction varies by area (See Appendix C).

Table 3
 NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS
 WITH SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
Zero Gross Income	433	5.4%
Zero Net Income	1,473	18.4
Minimum Benefit ^a	365	4.5
Elderly ^b	1,459	18.1
Children ^c	5,486	68.1
School Age Children ^d	4,155	51.6
Disabled ^e	621	7.7

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aMinimum benefit is \$10 for one and two person households.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

Table 4

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY GROSS AND NET MONTHLY INCOME

Amount of Monthly Income	Gross Income		Net Income	
	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^a	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^a
None	433	5.4%	1,473	18.4%
\$ 1- 99	175	2.2	1,351	16.9
100-199	780	9.8	1,674	21.0
200-299	1,626	20.4	1,315	16.5
300-399	1,881	23.6	919	11.5
400-499	1,183	14.9	541	6.8
500-599	746	9.4	320	4.0
600-699	497	6.2	183	2.3
700-799	268	3.4	126	1.6
800-899	179	2.2	35	.4
900-999	81	1.0	27	.3
1000 +	119	1.5	29	.4
Unknown	83	--	60	--
Total	8,052	100.0	8,052	100.0
Average Income	\$376		\$208	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPercent of households with known income.

Table 5

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY GROSS MONTHLY INCOME
AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Gross Monthly Income	Household Size								Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^a
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	199	79	57	55	20	12	6	5	433	5.4%
\$ 1- 99	72	40	30	14	14	5	1	0	175	2.2
100-199	278	239	157	62	26	11	5	2	780	9.8
200-299	547	475	316	152	87	25	18	6	1,626	20.4
300-399	694	422	455	234	48	14	7	6	1,881	23.6
400-499	103	361	243	287	113	46	16	15	1,883	14.9
500-599	22	145	208	131	127	74	27	13	746	9.4
600-699	0	35	105	172	97	49	29	10	497	6.2
700-799	0	1	52	82	52	34	24	22	268	3.4
800-899	0	4	8	57	34	28	33	15	179	2.2
900-999	0	0	0	30	25	11	8	6	81	1.0
1000 +	0	0	0	1	28	34	16	40	119	1.5
Unknown	44	16	14	4	2	2	0	0	83	--
Number of Households	1,958	1,819	1,646	1,280	673	345	190	140	8,052	100.0
Percent of All Households	24.3	22.6	20.4	16.0	8.4	4.3	2.4	1.7	100.0	
Average Gross Income	\$249	312	367	452	518	588	643	787	\$376	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aLess than 500 households.^aPercent of those households with known income.

Table 6

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY NET MONTHLY INCOME
AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Net Monthly Income	Household Size								Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^a
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	690	326	218	134	55	33	10	6	1,473	18.4%
\$ 1- 99	412	440	278	116	64	21	15	5	1,351	16.9
100-199	456	436	458	227	68	14	12	4	1,674	21.0
200-299	338	301	260	261	99	36	16	5	1,315	16.5
300-399	47	215	226	194	139	63	18	16	919	11.5
400-499	3	83	130	135	81	59	35	15	541	6.8
500-599	0	6	52	131	51	39	23	17	320	4.0
600-699	*	0	9	54	65	24	12	19	183	2.3
700-799	0	0	0	16	35	23	33	18	126	1.6
800-899	0	0	0	2	10	11	6	6	35	.4
900-999	0	0	0	0	*	17	2	9	27	.3
1000 +	0	0	0	0	0	*	9	19	29	.4
Unknown	12	11	15	10	6	6	0	1	60	--
Number of Households	1,958	1,819	1,646	1,280	673	345	190	140	8,052	
Percent of All Households	24.3	22.6	20.4	15.9	8.4	4.3	2.4	1.8	100.0	
Average Net Income	\$97	148	194	275	340	413	468	618	\$208	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

*Less than 500 households.

^aPercent of those households with known income.

Table 7
DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME SOURCE

Amount of Monthly Income From Specified Source	Earned Income ^a		Social Security & Other Pensions ^b		AFDC or General Assistance ^b		SSI ^b		Other Income ^b	
	Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^b
	(000)		(000)		(000)		(000)		(000)	
None	6,476	80.4%	6,369	79.1%	3,471	43.1%	6,599	82.0%	7,184	89.2%
\$ 1-99	131	1.6	47	0.6	270	3.4	317	3.9	338	4.2
100-199	160	2.0	275	3.4	828	10.3	257	3.2	144	1.8
200-299	144	1.8	452	5.6	989	12.3	512	6.4	86	1.1
300-399	109	1.4	319	4.0	905	11.2	68	0.8	44	0.5
400-499	169	2.1	184	2.3	537	6.7	37	0.5	17	0.2
500-599	177	2.2	89	1.1	282	3.5	21	0.3	10	0.1
600-699	154	1.9	26	0.3	181	2.2	7	0.1	5	0.1
700-799	100	1.2	16	0.2	24	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
800-899	61	0.8	5	0.1	17	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
900-999	48	0.6	7	0.1	4	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
1000+	43	0.5	1	*	7	0.1	0	0.0	1	*
Unknown	280	3.5	262	3.3	537	6.7	234	2.9	223	2.8
Number of Households	8,052	100.0	8,052	100.0	8,052	100.0	8,052	100.0	8,052	100.0
Households With Income	1,576	19.6	1,683	20.9	4,581	56.9	1,453	18.0	868	10.8
Average Amount of Income^c	\$461		312		306		205		135	
Average Gross Income^c	\$550		416		372		396		384	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment and farm income.

^bPercent of those households with known income.

^cFor households with income from specified source.

*Less than 0.05 percent.

Table 8

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS, AVERAGE INCOME, AND AVERAGE BENEFIT
BY SELECTED INCOME SOURCES

Income Source	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households	Average Income Amount ^a		Average Benefit ^a
			Gross	From Source	
Earned Income:					
Wages and salaries	1,490	18.5%	\$557	\$474	\$132
Self-employment	287	3.6	413	224	146
Earned income tax credit	215	2.7	383	26	134
Unearned Income:					
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)	4,023	50.0	389	326	158
General Assistance (GA)	771	9.6	277	170	90
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	1,452	18.0	396	205	76
Social Security and Railroad Pensions	1,569	19.5	413	303	77
Other retirement benefits	373	4.6	447	258	116
Unemployment Insurance (UI)	620	7.7	494	443	122
Asset Income	226	2.8	368	55	121
Other unearned income	868	10.8	384	135	127
No income:	433	5.4	0	0	150
Total^b	8,052	100.0	376		127

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aAveraged over households with income from specified source.

^bSum of individual income sources do not add to totals because households can receive income from more than one source.

Table 9

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY GROSS MONTHLY INCOME
AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE POVERTY LINE FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS,
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY OR DISABLED, AND
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Gross Income as a Percentage of the Poverty Line ^a	All Households		Households With Elderly ^b		Households With Elderly or Disabled ^c		Households With Children ^d	
	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e
25% or less	947	11.9	35	2.4	50	2.5	584	10.7
26 - 50%	1,990	25.0	80	5.5	158	7.9	1,647	30.2
51 - 75%	2,514	31.5	393	27.0	603	30.2	1,864	34.2
76 - 100%	1,927	24.2	795	54.6	990	49.6	990	18.2
101 - 125%	535	6.7	136	9.3	170	8.5	342	6.3
126 - 130%	31	0.4	7	0.5	8	0.4	16	0.3
131 - 150%	22	0.3	10	0.7	15	0.7	5	0.1
151% or more	4	0.1	**	*	4	0.2	4	0.1
Unknown	83	--	3	--	83	--	36	--
Total	8,052	100.0	1,458	100.0	2,080	100.0	5,486	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aDefined as the Census Bureau's 1983 poverty income guidelines for nonfarm families (see Appendix A).

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more or with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^ePercent of those households with known income.

*Less than .05 percent.

**less than 500 households.

Table 10

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY NET MONTHLY INCOME
AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE POVERTY LINE FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS,
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY OR DISABLED, AND
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Net Income As a Percentage of the Poverty Line ^a	All Households		Households With Elderly ^b		Households With Elderly or Disabled ^c		Households With Children ^d	
	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e
25% or less	3,714	46.5	441	30.3	650	31.8	2,379	43.7
26 - 50%	2,370	29.7	393	27.0	575	28.1	1,842	33.9
51 - 75%	1,498	18.6	480	33.7	659	32.2	927	17.2
76 - 100%	1,020	12.7	305	21.1	596	28.7	1,417	25.9
101 - 125%	10	0.1	2	0.1	2	0.1	5	0.1
126 - 130%	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
131 - 150%	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
151% or more	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	60	--	5	--	34	--	45	--
Total	8,052	100.0	1,459	100.0	2,080	100.0	5,486	100.0

Table 11
 NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING AND VALUE OF
 DEDUCTION CLAIMED

Type of Deduction	Number of Households Claiming Deduction (000)	Percent of All Households	Average Amount of Deduction ^c	
			Over Claiming Households	Over all Households
Earned Income	1,576	19.6%	\$83	\$24
Dependent Care ^a	135	1.7	82	1
Shelter ^a	5,720	73.5	100	73
Medical ^b	159	2.0	55	1
Total ^c	8,052	100.0	175	175

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aCombined total of dependent care deduction and shelter deduction is subject to a limit except for households where at least one member is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments (see Appendix C).

^bAvailable only to households where at least one person is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

^cIncludes standard deduction for all households (see Appendix C).

^dAverage amount of deduction for households with known deduction information.

Table 12
DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT
OF TOTAL DEDUCTION

Amount of Total Deduction ^a	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
\$ 0 - 50	0	0.0%
51 - 100	1,813	23.6
101 - 150	982	12.8
151 - 200	3,469	45.2
201 - 250	558	7.3
251 - 300	449	5.9
300+	404	5.3
Unknown	376	--
 Total	 8,052	 100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$175	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

^bPercent of those households with known deductions.

Table 13

AVERAGE TOTAL DEDUCTION^a FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS BY
GROSS MONTHLY INCOME AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Gross Monthly Income	Household Size								Average Total Deduction
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
None	\$121	151	147	174	164	163	172	184	\$141
\$ 1- 99	125	153	177	180	190	199	196	--	152
100-199	181	165	170	176	183	190	149	133	173
200-299	174	173	168	165	168	176	162	173	171
300-399	176	179	175	173	165	158	147	159	176
400-499	165	158	172	170	161	154	196	149	165
500-599	193	184	177	192	183	191	175	127	183
600-699	--	236	211	168	170	194	195	171	187
700-799	--	259	251	202	181	172	173	185	200
800-899	--	--	277	246	180	173	163	150	199
900-999	--	--	--	280	251	189	223	202	246
1000 +	*	--	--	239	273	221	261	229	240
Average Total Deduction	\$168	171	177	180	179	183	184	184	175

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aTotal deduction includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

*Average deduction was not computed for categories with less than 500 households.

--No households in this category.

Table 14

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING EARNED INCOME
DEDUCTION AND VALUE OF DEDUCTION CLAIMED

Households with:	Number of Households		Percent of Households	Average Amount of Deduction ^f	
	Total (000)	With Deduction (000)		With Deduction	All Households
Elderly ^a	1,459	70	4.9%	\$39	\$2
Children ^b	5,486	1,081	20.5	91	19
Disabled ^c	621	42	9.3	70	7
Earned Income ^d	1,576	1,576	100.0	83	83
Public Assistance ^e	4,580	288	6.6	60	4
Total	8,052	1,576	19.6	83	14

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^cHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^dEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment and farm income.

^ePublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^fAverage amount of deduction for households with known earnings deduction.

Table 15

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT
OF EARNED INCOME DEDUCTION

Amount of Earned Income Deduction	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^a
None	6,476	80.4%
\$ 1 - 50	408	5.1
51 - 100	409	5.1
101 - 150	355	4.4
151 - 200	105	1.3
201 - 250	18	.2
251 - 300	2	*
Amount Unknown	280	3.5
Total	8,052	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$83	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPercent of those households with known earned income deduction.

*Less than .05 percent.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING DEPENDENT CARE^a
DEDUCTION AND VALUE OF DEDUCTION CLAIMED

Households with:	Number of Households Total (000)	With Deduction (000)	Percent of Households ^g	Average Amount of Deduction With Deduction	of Deduction All Households
Elderly ^b	1,459	5	0.3%	\$115	**
Children ^c	5,486	134	2.4	82	2
Disabled ^d	621	2	0.3	115	**
Earned Income ^e	1,576	110	7.0	84	6
Public Assistance ^f	4,580	54	1.2	76	1
Total	8,052	135	1.7	82	1

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aCombined total of dependent care deduction and excess shelter deduction is subject to a limit except for households where at least one member is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments (see Appendix C).

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment and farm income.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^gpercent of households with known dependent care deduction.

*No Households in this category.

**Less than 50 cents.

Table 17

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT
OF DEPENDENT CARE DEDUCTION

Amount of Dependent Care Deduction ^a	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
None	7,917	98.3%
\$ 1 - 50	27	.3
51 - 100	54	.7
101 - 150	53	.7
151 - 200	0	0.0
201 - 250	0	0.0
251 - 300	0	0.0
300+	0	0.0
Unknown	230	--
Total	8,052	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$82	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aCombined total of dependent care deduction and excess shelter deduction is subject to a limit except for households where at least one member is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments (see Appendix C).

^bPercent of those households with known dependent care deduction.

Table 18

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING EXCESS SHELTER^a
DEDUCTION AND VALUE OF DEDUCTION CLAIMED

Households With:	Number of Households Total (000)	With Deduction (000)	Percent of Households ^g	Average Amount of Deduction With Deduction	All Households
Elderly ^b	1,459	922	64.2%	\$120	\$77
Children ^c	5,486	3,983	74.9	96	72
Disabled ^d	621	355	69.4	113	79
Earned Income ^e	1,576	881	65.0	88	57
Public Assistance ^f	4,580	3,473	79.7	99	79
Total	8,052	5,720	73.5	100	73

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aCombined total of dependent care deduction and shelter deduction is subject to a limit except for households where at least one member is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments (see Appendix C).

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, and farm income.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^gpercent of households with known excess shelter deduction.

Table 19

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT
OF EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION

Amount of Excess Shelter Deduction ^a	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
None	2,062	26.5%
\$ 1 - 50	1,040	13.4
51 - 100	1,109	14.2
101 - 150	3,191	41.0
151 - 200	134	1.7
201 - 250	116	1.5
251 - 300	47	.6
300+	84	1.1
Unknown	270	--
Total	8,052	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$100	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aCombined total of dependent care deduction and excess shelter deduction is subject to a limit except for households where at least one member is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments (see Appendix C).

^bPercent of those with known deductions.

Table 20

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY VALUE OF
COMBINED DEPENDENT CARE/EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION

Value of Combined Dependent Care/ Excess Shelter Deduction ^a	All Households		Households with Elderly ^b		Households with Children ^c		Households with Disabled ^d		Households with Earned Income ^e		Households with Public Assistance ^f	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent ^g	Number (000)	Percent ^g	Number (000)	Percent ^g	Number (000)	Percent ^g	Number (000)	Percent ^g
None	2,006	24.8	513	35.8	1,275	24.0	155	30.3	423	31.2	865	19.9
Less than cap	2,417	31.1	544	37.9	1,490	28.0	184	36.0	399	29.4	1,337	30.7
Equal to cap	2,861	36.8	9	0.6	2,447	46.0	42	8.2	510	37.6	2,033	46.7
Greater than cap	499	6.4	369	25.7	103	1.9	130	25.4	24	1.8	121	2.8
Unknown	270	--	25	--	172	--	110	--	221	--	225	--
Total	8,052	100.0	1,459	100.0	5,486	100.0	621	100.0	1,576	100.0	4,580	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aCombined total of dependent care and excess shelter deduction is capped at a level which varies by area (see Appendix D) except for households where at least one member is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment and farm income.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^gPercent of those households with known information on dependent care/excess shelter deductions.

Table 21

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING MEDICAL
DEDUCTION AND VALUE OF DEDUCTION CLAIMED^a

Households With:	Number of Households		Percent of Households ^g	Average Amount of Deduction	
	Total (000)	With Deduction (000)		With Deduction	All Households
Elderly ^b	1,459	149	10.2%	\$51	\$5
Children ^c	5,486	19	0.4	77	*
Disabled ^d	621	10	1.7	107	2
Earned Income ^e	1,576	6	0.4	57	*
Public Assistance ^f	4,580	11	0.2	127	*
Total	8,052	159	2.0	55	1

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^a Available only to households where at least one person is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

^b Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

^c Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

^d Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^e Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment and farm income.

^f Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^g percent of households with known medical deduction.

* Less than 50 cents.

Table 22

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT
OF MEDICAL DEDUCTION

Amount of Medical Deduction ^a	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
None	7,893	98.0%
\$ 1 - 50	101	1.3
51 - 100	35	.4
101 - 150	19	.2
151 - 200	1	*
201 - 250	1	*
251 - 300	0	0.0
300+	2	*
Total	8,052	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$55	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aAvailable only to households where at least one person is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

^bpercent of those with known deductions.

* Less than 0.05 percent.

Table 23

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT OF
MONTHLY FOOD STAMP BENEFIT

Amount of Monthly Benefit ^a	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
\$ 10 or less	371	4.6%
11 - 25	336	4.2
26 - 50	643	8.0
51 - 75	1,389	17.3
76 - 100	696	8.6
101 - 150	1,888	23.4
151 - 200	1,450	18.0
201 - 300	1,064	13.2
301 or more	214	2.6
Total	8,052	100.0
Average Benefit	\$127	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aThe maximum monthly benefit varies by area (see Appendix D).

^bPercent of those households with known benefit amount.

Table 24

AVERAGE MONTHLY FOOD STAMP BENEFIT BY GROSS MONTHLY
INCOME AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Gross Monthly Income	Household Size								Average Benefit Per Household
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
None	\$74	133	196	248	302	345	398	537	\$150
\$ 1- 99	74	138	179	251	295	360	398	--	147
100-199	73	135	193	249	298	359	392	445	145
200-299	50	118	173	228	270	328	378	507	132
300-399	32	94	147	199	241	301	337	428	104
400-499	16	59	120	171	215	270	320	396	126
500-599	34	35	95	154	191	251	282	389	135
600-699	--	27	68	114	155	224	262	351	130
700-799	--	47	56	89	132	191	225	343	137
800-899	--	42	40	77	104	157	182	294	130
900-999	--	--	139	58	89	139	175	249	105
1000 +	--	--	--	67	77	105	146	227	145
Average Benefit per Household	\$48	95	140	169	196	234	260	329	\$127

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

*Average benefit was not computed for categories with less than 500 households.

--No households in this category.

Table 25

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY TOTAL COUNTABLE
RESOURCES FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSEHOLDS WITH
ELDERLY OR DISABLED

Value of Countable Resources ^a	All Households		Households With Elderly ^b		Households With Elderly or Disabled ^c	
	Number (000)	Percent ^d	Number (000)	Percent ^d	Number (000)	Percent ^d
None	6,161	76.9%	949	65.4%	1,287	68.1%
\$ 1 - 500	1,541	19.2	349	24.1	441	23.4
501 - 1,000	208	2.6	94	6.5	101	5.3
1,000 - 1,500	78	1.0	45	3.1	45	2.4
1,501 - 1,750	6	0.1	4	0.3	4	0.2
1,751 - 2,000	7	0.1	5	0.4	5	0.3
2,001 - 3,000	9	0.1	5	0.3	5	0.3
Amount Unknown	41	--	8	--	11	--
Total	8,052	100.0	1,459	100.0	1,900	100.0
Average Value	\$55		143		118	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aStatutory requirements in effect in February 1983 included as "countable" resources all types of assets except (1) equity in a home and (2) certain specified resources that cannot be readily liquidated or that are needed for employment or self-employment. At the time these data were collected, the resource limit for most households was \$1,500. Households of two or more, at least one of whom was age 60 or older, were allowed up to \$3,000.

^bHouseholds with at least one person age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one person age 60 or more or with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^dPercent of those with known countable resources.

Table 26
 DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY
 TYPE OF MOST RECENT ACTION

Most Recent Action	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
Initial Certification ^a	2,210	27.5%
Recertification	5,831	72.5
Unknown	11	--
Total	8,052	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aIncludes both households certified for the first time and previously certified households who have not received benefits for at least 30 days.

^bPercent of those households with known most recent action.

Table 27

COMPARISON OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT
EXPEDITED SERVICE BY PRESENCE OF GROSS AND
NET MONTHLY INCOME

	Households With Expedited Service ^a		Households Without Expedited Service		Unknown	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Gross Income = 0	112	34.7%	316	4.2%	5	14.6%
Gross Income > 0	211	65.3	4,260	95.8	27	85.5
Net Income = 0	191	59.3	1,214	16.0	7	22.6
Net Income > 0	131	40.7	6,363	84.0	25	77.4
Total	322	100.0	7,576	100.0	32	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds which initially received expedited service for the certification period in effect in February 1983.

Table 28

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY LENGTH OF
CERTIFICATION PERIOD

Months in Certification Period	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^a
1	121	1.5
2	251	3.1
3	905	11.3
4	610	.6
5	263	3.3
6	1,656	20.6
7	358	4.5
8	107	1.3
9	98	1.2
10	62	.8
11	163	2.0
12+	3,429	42.7
Unknown	29	--
Total	8,052	100.0
Average Length	8.2	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPercent of those households with known certification periods.

Table 29

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY
HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household Size	All Households		Households with Elderly ^a		Households with Earnings		Households with Children ^b	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
1	1,958	24.3%	916	62.8%	179	11.3%	57	1.0%
2	1,819	22.6	338	23.2	300	19.1	1,260	23.0
3	1,646	20.4	87	6.0	354	22.5	1,567	28.6
4	1,280	15.9	43	3.0	310	19.7	1,263	23.0
5	673	8.4	17	1.2	193	12.2	666	12.1
6	345	4.3	29	2.0	104	6.6	343	6.3
7	190	2.4	15	1.1	65	4.1	189	3.5
8+	140	1.7	13	0.9	71	4.5	140	2.6
Total	8,052	100.0	1,459	100.0	1,576	100.0	5,486	100.0
Average Size	2.9		1.7		3.7		3.7	

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

Table 30

AGE RELATED CHARACTERISTICS OF
PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS

	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
Households with Elderly ^a	1,459	18.1%
Single person elderly households ^b	916	11.4
Headed by female	732	9.1
Headed by male	177	2.2
Unknown	8	0.1
Other elderly households ^c	543	6.7
Headed by female	256	3.2
Headed by male	281	3.5
Unknown	6	0.1
Households with Children ^d	5,486	68.1
Headed by female	4,205	52.2
Headed by male	1,247	15.5
Unknown	34	0.4
Households with Disabled ^e	621	7.7
Headed by female	444	5.5
Headed by male	174	2.2
Unknown	3	*

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes elderly single persons living alone or as a separate food stamp unit in a larger household.

^cIncludes elderly couples and other multiperson households with elderly members.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

* Less than 0.05 percent.

Table 31

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE,
NUMBER OF ELDERLY, NUMBER OF CHILDREN, AND NUMBER
OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

	Household Size								Number of Households (000)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
Number of Elderly ^a									
0	1,042	1,480	1,559	1,237	656	316	125	128	6,593
1	913	161	55	40	14	17	15	11	1,228
2	3	177	31	3	3	12	0	1	230
3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Number of Children ^b									
0	1,901	558	80	17	7	2	1	0	2,566
1	53	1,204	471	64	21	5	0	0	1,818
2	2	50	1,091	580	65	22	4	1	1,815
3	1	2	3	619	340	51	27	7	1,049
4	0	5	1	1	239	170	47	21	483
5+	0	0	2	0	1	95	111	111	321
Number of School Age Children ^c									
0	1,922	1,152	528	236	35	18	4	1	3,897
1	33	651	576	315	107	25	9	4	1,720
2	2	11	539	466	223	82	25	16	1,364
3	0	3	1	262	209	103	43	11	633
4	0	1	2	0	99	95	65	45	306
5+	0	0	0	0	1	22	45	63	131
Total	1,958	1,819	1,646	1,280	673	345	190	140	8,052

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPersons age 60 or more.

^bPersons age 17 or less.

^cPersons age 5 to 17.

Table 32
DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE AND SEX

Age	Female		Male		All Participants ^a	
	Number (000)	Percent ^b	Number (000)	Percent ^b	Number (000)	Percent ^c
4 or less	1,962	14.2%	1,951	20.5%	3,997	16.8%
5 - 17	4,107	29.7	4,016	42.2	8,288	34.9
18 - 35	4,527	32.8	1,990	20.9	6,634	27.9
36 - 59	2,086	15.1	1,027	10.8	3,161	13.3
60 or more	1,131	8.2	525	5.5	1,677	7.1
Unknown	36	--	31	--	95	--
Total	13,848	100.0	9,540	100.0	23,851	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aTotal number of participants includes approximately 99,000 participants whose sex was not recorded.

^bPercent of those participants with known ages.

Table 33

AGE RELATED CHARACTERISTICS OF PARTICIPANTS

	Number of Participants (000)	Percent of Participants ^d
A. <u>Children^a</u>	<u>12,345</u>	<u>51.9</u>
1. <u>Preschool children</u>	<u>4,040</u>	<u>17.0</u>
2. <u>School age children</u>	<u>8,304</u>	<u>34.9</u>
B. <u>Adults^b</u>		
1. <u>Parents</u>		
a. <u>Single parents</u>	<u>5,380</u>	<u>22.7</u>
Living with elderly	138	0.6
Disabled	253	1.1
Living with disabled	108	0.5
Other	4,881	20.5
b. <u>Multiple parents</u>	<u>2,520</u>	<u>10.6</u>
Living with elderly	83	0.4
Disabled	204	0.9
Living with disabled	55	0.2
Other	2,178	9.1
2. <u>Non Parents</u>		
a. <u>Single adults</u>	<u>1,467</u>	<u>6.2</u>
Living with elderly	166	0.7
Disabled	220	0.9
Living with disabled	36	0.2
Other	1,045	4.4
b. <u>Multiple adults</u>	<u>439</u>	<u>1.8</u>
Living with elderly	45	0.2
Disabled	60	0.3
Living with disabled	4	*
Other	330	1.4
C. <u>Elderly^c</u>	<u>1,679</u>	<u>1.4</u>
D. <u>Age Unknown</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>23,924</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPersons age 17 or less.

^bPersons age 18 to 59.

^cPersons age 60 or more.

^dPercent of those with known age and related characteristics.
Less than 105 percent.

Table 34

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY RACE
OR ETHNIC ORIGIN OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Race/Ethnic Origin of Household Head	Number of Households (000)	Percent of Households ^a
White	3,682	47.6%
Black	3,115	40.2
Hispanic	737	9.5
Asian	114	1.5
American Indian	90	1.2
Unknown	314	--
Total	8,052	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPercent of those with known race or ethnic origin.

Table 35

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Households with at Least One:	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^t
Alien	148	1.8%
Migrant	2	*
Military	3	*
Striker	6	.1
Student ^a	374	4.6

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHousehold members 18 years of age or older enrolled at least half-time in recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

^bPercent of all households with known characteristics.

*Under .05 percent.

Table 36

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY EMPLOYMENT
STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Employment Status of Household Head	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^c
Employed Full Time ^a	523	6.8
Employed Part Time ^b	332	4.3
Self-Employed	24	0.3
Farm Employed	10	0.1
Not Employed	6,809	88.5
Unknown	354	--
Total	8,052	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aEmployed at least 30 hours per week.

^bEmployed less than 30 hours per week.

^cPercent of those with known employment status.

Table 37

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY WORK REGISTRATION
STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Work Registration Status of Household Head	Number of Households (000)	Percent of Households ^d
Required to register for work	801	10.3%
Exempt from work registration:	7,005	89.7
Less than 18 or over 60 years old	46	.6
Disabled/Elderly	2,019	25.9
WIN participant	1,558	20.0
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult ^a	2,573	33.0
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	289	3.7
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	15	0.2
Employed full-time ^b	468	6.0
Student ^c	37	0.5
Unknown	245	--
Total	8,052	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aIncludes both caretakers of children under 12 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment.

^bEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

^cEnrolled at least half-time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

^dPercent of those with known work registration status of household head.

Table 38

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS BY WORK REGISTRATION STATUS

Work Registration Status	Number of Participants (000)	Percent of Participants ^d
Required to register for work	1,522	6.6%
Exempt from work registration:	21,387	93.4
Less than 18	11,612	50.6
Disabled or over 60 years old	2,589	11.3
WIN participant	1,954	8.5
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult ^a	3,679	16.0
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	365	1.6
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	16	.1
Employed full-time ^b	696	3.0
Student ^c	503	2.2
Unknown	1,015	--

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aIncludes both caretakers of children under 12 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment.

^bEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

^cEnrolled at least half-time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

^dPercent of those with known work registration status.

Table 39

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS
FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT EARNED INCOME

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (000)	Percent ^b	Value (000)	Percent ^b
Households With Earned Income ^a	1,576	19.6%	\$211,000	20.6%
Households With No Earned Income	6,476	80.4	813,627	79.4
Total	8,052	100.0	1,024,627	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, and farm income.

^bPercent of those with known income status.

Table 40

AVERAGE VALUE OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT EARNED INCOME^a

	Households With Earned Income ^b	Households With No Earned Income
Gross Monthly Income	\$550	\$336
Net Monthly Income	\$319	\$182
Total Deductions ^c	\$233	\$164
Countable Resources	\$ 65	\$ 53
Monthly Benefit	\$134	\$126
Household Size	3.7	2.8
Certification Period (months)	5.9	8.7

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aExcludes households where presence of earned income is not known.

^bEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, and farm income.

^cIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

Table 41

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT
EARNED INCOME FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS^a

Households With:	Households With Earned Income ^b		Households With No Earned Income	
	Number (000)	Percent ^g	Number (000)	Percent ^g
Zero Gross Income	0	0.0%	433	6.7%
Zero Net Income	217	14.1	1,255	19.5
Minimum Benefit ^c	32	2.0	333	5.1
Elderly ^d	96	6.1	1,363	21.0
Children ^e	1,286	81.6	4,200	64.9
School Age Children ^f	1,002	63.5	3,153	48.7

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aExcludes households where presence of earned income is not known.

^bEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, and farm income.

^cMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^fHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^gPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Table 42

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT
EARNED INCOME^a

	Households with Earned Income ^b		Households with No Earned Income	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Household Size				
1 - 2	479	30.4%	3,298	50.9
3 - 4	664	42.1	2,262	34.9
5+	433	27.5	915	14.1
Gross Income				
None	-	-	433	6.7
\$ 1 - 99	55	3.7	120	1.9
100 - 199	94	6.3	687	10.6
200 - 299	132	8.8	1,494	23.1
300 - 399	144	9.7	1,737	26.8
400 - 499	239	16.0	945	14.6
500+	830	55.6	1,060	16.4
Net Income				
None	217	14.1	1,255	19.5
\$ 1 - 99	144	9.3	1,207	18.7
100 - 199	172	11.1	1,503	23.3
200 - 299	240	15.6	1,075	16.7
300 - 399	258	16.8	660	10.2
400 - 499	171	11.1	369	5.7
500+	339	22.0	381	5.9
Benefits				
\$ 10 or less	35	2.2	336	5.2
11 - 50	147	9.3	832	12.9
51 - 100	476	30.2	1,609	24.9
101 - 200	640	40.6	2,698	41.7
201 - 300	221	14.0	843	13.0
301+	57	3.6	157	2.4
Total	1,576	100.0	6,476	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aExcludes households where presence of earned income is not known.

^bEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, and farm income.

Table 43

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY AND NO ELDERLY

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (000)	Percent	Value (000)	Percent
Households With Elderly ^a	1,459	18.1%	\$84,931	8.3%
Households With No Elderly	6,593	81.9	939,696	91.7
Total	8,052	100.0	1,024,627	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

Table 44

AVERAGE VALUES OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY AND NO ELDERLY

	Households With Elderly ^a	Households With No Elderly
Gross Monthly Income	\$371	\$377
Net Monthly Income	\$208	\$208
Total Deductions ^b	\$169	\$176
Countable Resources ^c	\$143	\$ 36
Monthly Benefit	\$ 58	\$143
Household Size	1.7	3.2
Certification Period (months)	10.4	7.7

Source: February 1983 Food Samp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

^cAt the time these data were collected, the resource limit for most households was \$1,500. Households of two or more, at least one of whom was age 60 or older, were allowed up to \$3,000.

Table 45

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY AND
NO ELDERLY FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Households with:	Households With Elderly ^a		Households With No Elderly	
	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e
Zero Gross Income	24	1.6	409	6.2
Zero Net Income	192	13.2	1,281	19.4
Minimum Benefit ^b	286	19.6	78	1.2
Children ^c	207	14.2	5,279	80.1
School Age Children ^d	185	12.7	3,969	60.2

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one and two person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^ePercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Table 46

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY
AND NO ELDERLY

	Households with Elderly ^a		Households with No Elderly	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Household Size				
1 - 2	1,255	86.0%	2,522	38.3
3 - 4	130	8.9	2,796	42.4
5+	74	5.1	1,275	19.3
Gross Income				
None	24	1.7	409	6.3
\$ 1 - 99	6	0.4	169	2.6
100 - 199	32	2.2	748	11.5
200 - 299	301	20.7	1,324	20.3
300 - 399	655	45.0	1,226	18.8
400 - 499	259	17.8	925	14.2
500+	178	12.2	1,712	26.3
Net Income				
None	192	13.2	1,281	19.6
\$ 1 - 99	216	14.9	1,135	17.4
100 - 199	346	23.8	1,328	20.3
200 - 299	368	25.3	947	14.5
300 - 399	183	12.6	735	11.3
400 - 499	76	5.2	465	7.1
500+	73	5.0	647	9.9
Benefits				
\$ 10 or less	287	19.7	84	1.3
11 - 50	532	36.5	447	6.8
51 - 100	425	29.2	1,660	25.2
101 - 200	171	11.7	3,168	48.0
201 - 300	32	2.2	1,032	15.7
301+	12	0.8	202	3.1
Total	1,459	100.0	6,593	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

Table 47

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH DISABLED AND NO DISABLED

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (000)	Percent ^b	Value (000)	Percent ^b
Households With Disabled ^a	621	7.7%	\$66,272	6.5%
Households With No Disabled	7,431	92.3	958,355	93.5
Total	8,052	100.0	1,024,627	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bPercent of those households with known disability status of members.

Table 48

AVERAGE VALUES OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH DISABLED AND NO DISABLED

	Households With Disabled ^a	Households With No Disabled
Gross Monthly Income	\$444	\$371
Net Monthly Income	\$242	\$205
Total Deduction ^b	\$174	\$175
Countable Resources	\$39	\$56
Monthly Benefit	\$107	\$129
Household Size (persons)	2.8	3.0
Certification Period (months)	8.4	8.2

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

Table 49

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH DISABLED AND
NO DISABLED FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Households With:	Households With Disabled ^a		Households With No Disabled	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Zero Gross Income	0	0.0%	433	5.8%
Zero Net Income	108	18.3	1,364	18.4
Minimum Benefit ^b	27	4.4	337	4.5
Children ^c	363	58.4	5,123	68.9
School Age Children ^d	306	49.3	3,848	51.8

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Table 50

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH DISABLED
AND NO DISABLED

	Households With Disabled ^a		Households With No Disabled	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Household Size				
1 - 2	330	53.2%	3,446	46.4%
3 - 4	184	29.6	2,743	36.9
5+	107	17.2	1,241	16.7
Gross Income				
None	0	0.0	433	5.8
\$ 1 - 99	6	1.0	170	2.3
100 - 199	16	3.0	764	10.3
200 - 299	146	27.0	1,480	19.9
300 - 399	121	22.3	1,760	23.7
400 - 499	75	13.9	1,108	14.9
500+	178	32.9	1,712	23.0
Net Income				
None	108	18.3	1,364	18.4
\$ 1 - 99	70	11.9	1,281	17.3
100 - 199	120	20.3	1,554	21.0
200 - 299	90	15.1	1,226	16.6
300 - 399	63	10.7	855	11.6
400 - 499	59	9.9	482	6.5
500+	81	13.7	638	8.6
Benefits				
\$ 10 or less	27	4.4	344	4.6
11 - 50	140	22.6	839	11.3
51 - 100	194	31.2	1,892	25.5
101 - 200	191	30.8	3,147	42.4
201 - 301	51	8.2	1,013	13.6
301+	18	2.9	196	2.6
Total	621	100.0	7,431	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

*Less than 500 households.

Table 51

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOL AGE
CHILDREN, AND NO CHILDREN

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (000)	Percent	Value (000)	Percent
Households With Children ^a	5,486	68.1%	874,961	85.4%
Households With School Age Children ^b	4,155	51.6	699,563	68.3
Households With No Children	2,566	31.9	149,665	14.6
Total	8,052	100.0	1,024,626	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Table 52

AVERAGE VALUES OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN, AND
NO CHILDREN

	Households With Children ^a	Households With School Age Children ^b	Households With No Children
Gross Monthly Income	\$421	\$446	\$278
Net Monthly Income	\$246	\$270	\$126
Total Deductions ^c	\$178	\$179	\$168
Countable Resources	\$ 39	\$ 42	\$ 90
Monthly Benefit	\$159	\$168	\$ 58
Household Size	3.7	4.0	1.3
Certification Period	7.7	7.7	9.1

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^cIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

Table 53

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN, AND NO CHILDREN FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Households with:	Households With Children ^c		Households With School Children ^d		Households With No Children	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Zero Gross Income	172	3.1	113	2.7	261	10.2
Zero Net Income	654	11.9	460	11.1	819	31.9
Minimum Benefit ^a	11	0.2	75	1.8	353	13.8
Elderly ^b	207	3.8	185	4.5	1,252	48.8
School Age Children ^d	4,155	75.7	4,155	100.0	0	0.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aMinimum benefit is \$10 for one and two person households.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Table 54

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS
FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN, AND NO CHILDREN

	Households With Children		Households With School Age Children		Households With No Children	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Household Size						
1 - 2	1,318	24.0	703	16.9	2,459	95.9
3 - 4	2,830	51.6	2,162	52.0	96	3.8
5+	1,339	24.4	1,290	31.1	10	0.4
Gross Income						
None	172	3.2	113	2.7	261	10.4
\$ 1 - 99	94	1.7	63	1.5	81	3.2
100 - 199	467	8.6	313	7.6	314	12.5
200 - 299	1,010	18.5	665	16.1	616	24.4
300 - 399	1,071	19.7	780	18.9	810	32.2
400 - 499	896	16.4	690	16.7	287	11.4
500+	1,740	31.9	1,506	36.5	150	6.0
Net Income						
None	654	12.0	460	11.2	819	32.1
\$ 1 - 99	873	16.1	564	13.8	477	18.7
100 - 199	1,150	21.1	805	19.6	525	20.6
200 - 299	869	16.0	633	15.4	446	17.5
300 - 399	729	13.4	621	15.1	190	7.4
400 - 499	466	8.6	399	9.7	75	2.9
500+	700	12.9	630	15.3	19	0.8
Benefits						
\$ 10 or less	15	0.3	11	0.3	356	13.9
11 - 50	205	3.7	159	3.8	774	30.2
51 - 100	948	17.3	640	15.4	1,137	44.3
101 - 200	3,050	55.6	2,185	52.6	289	11.3
201 - 300	1,055	19.2	953	22.9	9	0.4
301+	213	3.9	207	5.0	1	**
Total	5,486	100.0	4,155	100.0	2,566	100.0

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

**less than 0.05 percent.

Table 55

COMPARISON OF AVERAGE VALUES OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR:
AUGUST 1982, FEBRUARY 1982, AUGUST 1981, AND AUGUST 1980

	August 1980 ^a	August 1981	February 1982	August 1982	February 1983
Gross Monthly Income	\$326	\$349	\$345	\$356	\$376
Net Monthly Income	\$194	\$196	\$190	\$205	\$208
Total Deduction	\$148 ^b	\$169 ^c	\$167 ^c	\$159 ^c	\$175 ^c
Countable Resources	\$ 66	\$ 62	\$ 53	\$ 58	\$ 73
Monthly Benefit	\$ 89	\$103	\$110	\$105	\$127
Household Size	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
February 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
August 1981 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
August 1980 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aExcludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and \$75 standard deduction.

^cIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

Table 56

COMPARISON OF PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR FEBRUARY 1983, AUGUST 1982,
FEBRUARY 1982 AUGUST 1981, AND AUGUST 1980

Households with:	Percent of All Households				
	August 1980 ^a	August 1981	February 1982	August 1982	February 1983
Zero Gross Income	8.1%	7.3%	7.3%	7.8%	5.4%
Zero Net Income	16.6	18.7	19.6	18.9	18.4
Minimum Benefit	6.9	5.6	5.2	7.5	4.5
Elderly ^b	22.6	20.9	18.6	19.6	18.1
Children ^c	59.9	56.4	58.6	58.2	68.1
School Age Children ^d	44.4	41.5	43.7	44.2	51.6

Source: February 1983 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
August 1981 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
February 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
August 1980 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aExcludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Appendix A

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET 1983
POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES^a

Household Size	Continental U.S., Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$4,660	\$ 5,870	\$ 5,390
2	6,220	7,790	7,160
3	7,760	9,710	8,930
4	9,300	11,630	10,700
5	10,840	13,550	12,470
6	12,380	15,470	14,210
7	13,920	17,390	15,980
8 ^b	15,460	19,310	17,750

Source: Office of Management and Budget.

^aAnnual income for nonfarm families.

^bFor households with more than eight members, add \$1,540 in the continental U.S., Guam, and the Virgin Islands; \$1,920 in Alaska; and \$1,770 in Hawaii for each additional person.

Appendix B

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE NET MONTHLY FOOD STAMP INCOME
ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS IN FEBRUARY 1983^a

Household Size	Continental U.S., Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$ 390	\$ 490	\$ 450
2	519	650	597
3	647	810	745
4	775	970	892
5	904	1,130	1,040
6	1,032	1,290	1,187
7	1,060	1,450	1,335
8 ^b	1,289	1,650	1,482

Source: Program records, Food and Nutrition Service.

^aThe food stamp net income standards are equal to the OMB poverty income guidelines (Appendix A) divided by 12, rounded up to the nearest dollar.

^bFor households with more than eight members, add \$1,129 in the continental U.S., Guam, and the Virgin Islands; \$160 in Alaska; and \$148 in Hawaii for each additional person.

Appendix C

VALUE OF STANDARD AND MAXIMUM DEPENDENT CARE/
EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTIONS IN CONTINENTAL
UNITED STATES AND OUTLYING AREAS IN FEBRUARY 1983

Area	Standard	Dependent Care/ Excess Shelter ^a
Continental U.S.	\$ 85	\$115
Alaska	145	200
Hawaii	120	165
Guam	170	140
Virgin Islands	75	85

Source: Program records, Food and Nutrition Service.

^aLimit on combined dependent care/excess shelter deduction for households with no member age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

Appendix D

VALUE OF MAXIMUM COUPON ALLOTMENT (THRIFTY FOOD PLAN)
IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND OUTLYING
AREAS IN FEBRUARY 1983

Household Size	Continental United States ^a	Alaska	Hawaii	Guam	Virgin Islands
1	\$ 75	\$109	\$106	\$109	\$ 96
2	139	200	174	200	176
3	189	287	278	287	252
4	253	365	358	365	320
5	300	433	418	433	380
6	360	520	503	520	456
7	378	575	556	575	504
8 ^a	455	657	636	657	576

Source: Program records, Food and Nutrition Service.

^aExcludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^bFor households with more than eight members, add \$57 in the continental United States, \$82 in Alaska, \$79 in Hawaii, \$82 in Guam, and \$72 in the Virgin Islands for each additional person.

Appendix E

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Background

The summary tables are derived from a sample of households selected for review as part of the Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS). This system is an ongoing review of food stamp household circumstances to determine (1) if households are eligible for participation and receiving the correct coupon allotment or (2) if household participation is correctly denied or terminated. The system is based on a national probability sample of approximately 50,000 participating food stamp households and a somewhat smaller number of denials and terminations every six months. The national sample of participating households is stratified by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Semiannual State samples range from a minimum of 150 to a maximum of 1200 reviews depending on the size of the State's caseload. State agencies select an independent sample each month whose size is generally proportional to the size of the monthly participating caseload.¹ The survey reported here relies on the February 1983 Food Stamp IQCS sample of participating households.

Target Universe

The target universe of this study included all participating households (active cases) subject to quality control review in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. February 1983 participating caseload in Guam, and the Virgin Islands was also sampled, but these results are not included in the tabulations.

While almost all participating food stamp households are included in the target universe, certain types not amenable to QC review are not. Specifically, the active universe includes all households receiving food stamps during a review period except those in which the participants died or moved outside the State, received benefits by a disaster certification authorized by FNS, received benefits under a 60-day continuation of certification, were under investigation for Food Stamp Program fraud (including those with pending fraud hearings), were appealing a notice of adverse action when the review date falls within the time period covered by continued participation pending a hearing, or received restored benefits in accordance with the FNS-approved State manual but who were otherwise ineligible. The sampling unit within the active universe is the food stamp household as defined in an FNS-approved State manual.

¹Several States have integrated the Food Stamp, AFDC, and Medicaid QC sample selection and review process. In these States, monthly sample size is not necessarily proportional to monthly caseload size.

Weighting

The tabulations in this report are based on a total of 6,817 valid observations.² The sample findings have been weighted by the number of participating households as reported by the FNS Management Information Division (August 6, 1984). The case record weights of Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Oregon, South Carolina, and Wisconsin were adjusted to reflect the disproportionate integrated QC sample designs in those States.

Comparison to Participation Data

The following table presents a comparison of the preliminary estimates to aggregate program participation data (excluding Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands):

	<u>Program Data</u>	<u>February 1983 IQCS Sample</u>
Number of Households ³	8,051,359	8,051,805
Number of Participants	22,227,621	23,924,107
Value of Benefits	\$969,629,177	\$1,024,592,186
Average Household Size	2.76	2.94
Average Bonus per Person	\$43.66	\$43.28

The differences between program data and the February 1983 IQCS data are larger than those in previous characteristics reports.

Completion Rates

Failure to complete reviews for all cases selected subject to review can bias the sample results if the characteristics of unreviewed households are significantly different from those of reviewed households. While there are no direct measures of such differences, the ratio of valid observations to sample cases selected for review provides an indication of the magnitude of any potential bias. The expected number of cases subject to review in the sample (equal to one-sixth of all cases reported as subject to review during October 1982-March 1983), the number of valid observations, and the estimated completion rates are shown below:

²Approximately 21 cases were deleted from the sample because they contained incomplete or inconsistent information. Sample weights were adjusted proportionately within each State to account for these deletions.

³This estimate was constrained by an adjustment to the sample weights.

50 States
and D.C.

Number of cases selected subject to review	8,363
Number of cases completed	6,817
Estimated completion rate	81.5%

These rates are typical of surveys of this nature.

The February 1983 characteristics report differs from prior reports in that it uses data obtained from a revised IQCS report which collects more detailed information on individual household members, particularly for sources and amounts of income. Because of difficulties in reconciling person level data with aggregate household data, decision rules for deciding if an income source or characteristic was present in a household differ from those used in producing prior characteristics reports. This makes the results of this report not entirely comparable with previous reports.

REVIEW NO

FOR OPTIONAL STAFF USE

III. DETAILED PERSON - LEVEL INFORMATION

41. Person Number	42. FAFSA Stamp Case Amt	43. AFDC/MA Case Amt	44. Relationship to Head of Household	45. Age	46. Sex	47. Race	48. Citizenship Status	49. WIA and FS Work Reg	50. Enrol Status	51. Institutional Status

IV. TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY HOUSEHOLD MEMBER AND TYPE OF INCOME

52. Person Number	53. Wage and Salary Payments	54. Self Employment Earnings	55. Earned Income Tax Credit	56. Social Security and/or Railroad Retirement	57. SSI Payment (Federal)	58. Unemployment Compensation	59. Other Disability and/or Retirement Benefits	60. General Assistance or SSI State Supplement	61. AFDC Payment	62. Income From Assets/Property	63. Other Unearned Income

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FNS-300 (10-85)

NY NY W NO IF OR OPTIONAL STATE USE

V. ELIGIBILITY REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID

65. Eligibility Coverage Codes
 Access OC

67. Initial Case Eligibility Status

68. Initial Case Eligibility Error

69. Amount of Excess Resources

VI. DETAILED ERROR FINDINGS

71. Program Month	72. Error Code	73. Line Numbers with Errors (MA)	74. Error	75. Agency or Client	76. Dollar Amount	77. Discovery	78. Month	79. Date		80. Eligible Persons with Federal Matching (AF/DC Overpayment Case) Counted
								Date	Time Period	
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VII. ADMINISTRATIVE DEFICIENCIES - FOOD STAMP

01

INTEGRATED REVIEW SCHEDULE - PART B

(N VII W No.)

(FOR OPTIONAL STATE USE)

VII. TPL REVIEW

TPL Available						TPL ERRORS					
1 TPL Status	2 No. of Claims with TPL	3 Dollar Amt. of TPL Available	4 TPL Coverage	5 Type of TPL	6 Types of Service	7 No. of Claims	8 TPL Available	9 Types of Service	10 Source of Error	11 Error Amount	12 Total Dollar Amount

IX. CLAIMS PROCESSING REVIEW

				CP ERRORS		
13 No. of Receipts	14 No. of Paid Claims	15 Types of Services	16 Dollar Amount of Paid Claims	17 No. of Claims	18 Types of Service	19 Total Dollar Amount

X. DESCRIPTION OF CLAIMS PROCESSING REVIEW

Entered Claims	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	Error Frequency	Dollar Amount
710											
720											
730											
740											
750											
760											
770											

XI. PAYMENT REVIEW

20 Paid Case Elig. Status	21 No. of Months in Suspension Period through Review Month	22 Total Pre Review Month Claims Used to Offset Initial LU Errors	23 First Dollar Amt. of Case Liability Errors	24 First Dollar Amt. of Case Eligibility Errors

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 NCFR-301 (Rev. 6-79)
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