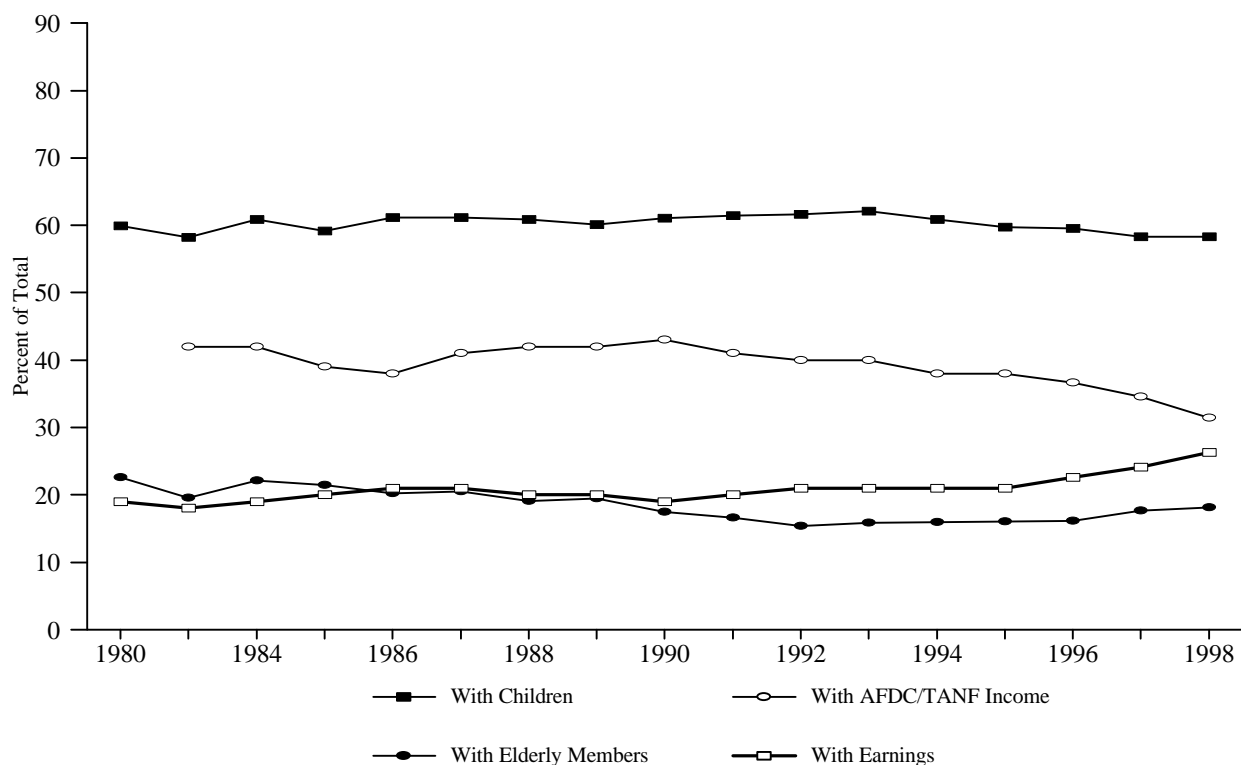


Figure A-5. Characteristics of Food Stamp Recipients



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis, Nutrition, and Evaluation, *Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: Fiscal Year 1998 (Advance Report)* and earlier years.

- In 1998, over one-fourth (26 percent) of food stamp households had earned income during the same month they were receiving food stamps. This is the highest proportion of households with earnings over the period examined. From 1980 to 1995, the proportion of food stamp households with earnings was in the range of 18 to 21 percent.
- There has been a drop in the proportion of food stamp households that receive AFDC/TANF income, from 43 percent in 1990, to 31 percent in 1998. The sharpest decline was between 1996 and 1998. The overall proportion of those food stamp households receiving any public assistance (e.g., AFDC/TANF, SSI or general assistance) has not declined as steeply, because of growth in the proportion of household receiving SSI income, as shown in Table A-16.
- About three-fifths (58 percent) of food stamp households had children in 1998. The proportion of households with children was slightly higher (60 to 62 percent) in most of the period between 1985 and 1996.
- The vast majority (91 percent) of households receiving food stamps had gross monthly income below the poverty level in 1998, as shown in Table A-16. This percentage has ranged from a low of 87 percent in 1980 to a high of 95 percent in the recession year of 1982.