

Table A-16. Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, 1980 - 1998

[In percent]

	Year									
	1980 ¹	1982 ¹	1984 ¹	1986 ¹	1988 ¹	1990 ¹	1992 ¹	1994 ¹	1996 ¹	1998 ¹
With Gross Monthly Income:										
Below the Federal Poverty Levels.....	87	95	93	93	92	92	92	90	91	90
Between the Poverty Levels and 130 Percent of the Poverty Levels.....	10	5	6	6	8	8	8	9	8	9
Above 130 Percent of Poverty.....	2	*	1	*	*	*	*	1	1	1
With Earnings.....	19	18	19	21	20	19	21	21	23	26
With Public Assistance Income ²	65	69	71	69	72	73	66	69	67	65
With AFDC/TANF Income.....	NA	42	42	38	42	43	40	38	37	31
With SSI Income.....	18	18	18	18	20	19	19	23	24	28
With Children.....	60	58	61	61	61	61	62	61	60	58
And Female Heads of Household.....	NA	45	47	48	50	51	51	51	50	47
With No Spouse Present ³	NA	NA	NA	NA	39	37	44	43	43	41
With Elderly Members ⁴	23	20	22	20	19	18	15	16	16	18
With Elderly Female Heads of Household ⁴	NA	14	16	15	14	11	9	11	NA	NA
Average Household Size.....	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4

¹ Data were gathered in August in the years 1980-84 and during the summer in the years from 1986 to 1994. Reports from 1995 to the present are based on fiscal year averages.

² Public assistance income includes AFDC, SSI, and general assistance.

³ In 1996 female heads of household with children whose spouse is present comprised about 7 percent of all female heads of household with children.

⁴ Elderly members and heads of household include those age 60 or older.

* Less than 0.5 percent.

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