

Food Assistance

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Food Assistance Program

Food Assistance

This section summarizes data on households and persons participating in food assistance programs:

1. The **federally**-funded food assistance caseloads are broken out into three program types:
 - A. SSI – all recipients that also received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security (SSA) benefits;
 - B. Public Assistance Food Stamps (PAFS) – all recipients that received a cash assistance grant or SSI;
 - C. Non-Assistance Food Stamp (NAFS) - at least one recipient who did not receive a cash assistance grant or SSI.
2. The **state**-funded Food Assistance Program (FAP) is for individuals who meet federal income requirements, but not certain categorical requirements (e.g., their immigrant status).

Food assistance caseload information in this section includes the federal Food Stamp Program, the state-funded FAP program, and mixed caseloads, unless otherwise noted.

Highlights:

- ✍ **The average monthly food assistance caseload decreased to 139,324 cases in SFY 2000**, from 154,662 cases in SFY 1999.
- ✍ **The average payment per case in SFY 2000 was \$149.10**
- ✍ **The proportion of the population who received food assistance declined.** 5.5% of Washington residents participated in food stamp programs in SFY 2000, compared to 6.1% for SFY 1999.
- ✍ **Preliminary findings indicate Washington's federal Food Stamp Program error rate will be low enough to avoid federal sanctions.** The error rate is about 6.7% for Federal Fiscal Year 1999 (October 1998-September 1999), which is 3.2% below the threshold.
- ✍ **The majority of food assistance recipients in SFY 2000 was female (57.6%), white (64.0%), and never married (65.7%).** The **median age** of the head of the household was **35.6 years**.

Food Assistance Program

Exhibit 1 Selected Food Assistance Program Characteristics SFY 1999 and SFY 2000

	SFY99 (July 98 - June 99)	SFY00 (July 99 - June 00)
Average Number of <u>Cases</u> Per Month (Range) ¹	154,245 (139,852 – 169,212)	139,324 (136,402 – 319,987)
Average Number of <u>Persons</u> Per Month (Range) ¹	331,032 (315,109 – 381,452)	311,259 (305,517 – 319,987)
Average Number of <u>Adults</u> Per Month (Range) ¹	182,086 (164,571 – 199,318)	163,086 (159,460 – 168,264)
Average Number of <u>Children</u> Per Month (Range) ¹	166,441 (150,538 – 182,134)	148,173 (145,683 – 151,916)
Recipients as a Percent of State's Total Population	6.1%	5.4%
Total Population ²	5,757,400	5,803,400
Children as a Percent of Recipients	47.8%	47.6%
Average Persons Per Case	2.3	2.2
Average Children Per Case	1.1	1.1
Average Children Per Adult	0.9	0.9
Average Monthly Payment Per <u>Case</u> (Range) ^{1 3}	\$152.12 (\$142.96 - \$162.39)	\$149.10 (\$144.81 - \$151.70)

¹ Source: SFY1999, ACES DMD6910A-DMD6909H Report; SFY2000, CARD Clients, Persons, and Expenditures Report.

² Source: OFM Population Estimates.

³ Payments are not adjusted for refunds.

Food Assistance Program

Exhibit 2
Food Assistance Cases
SFY 1998 to SFY 2000

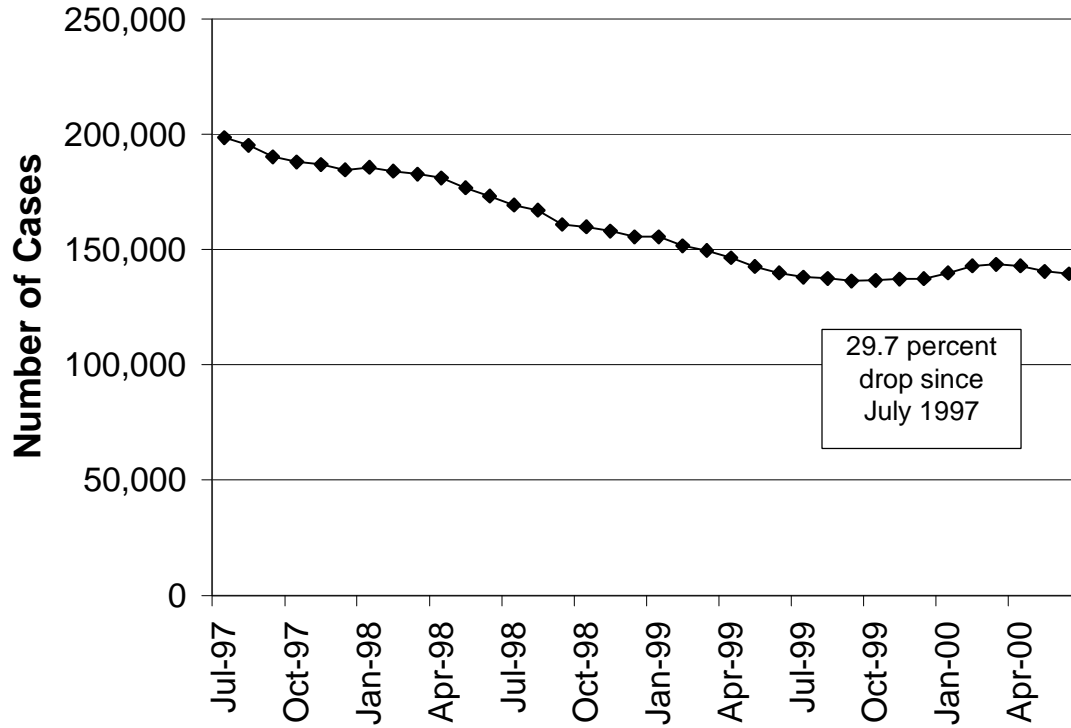


Exhibit 3
Food Assistance Cases
SFY 1998 to SFY 2000

	SFY98	SFY99	SFY00
July	198,487	169,212	137,987
August	195,165	166,991	137,433
September	190,135	160,848	136,403
October	187,999	159,826	136,545
November	186,786	157,928	137,165
December	184,554	155,500	137,318
January	185,545	155,485	139,811
February	184,030	151,651	142,886
March	182,735	149,590	143,577
April	180,972	146,459	142,929
May	176,788	142,603	140,498
June	173,129	139,852	139,453

Source: CARD Cases, Persons, and Expenditures Report.

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Exhibit 4
Food Assistance Applications
SFY 1999 to SFY 2000

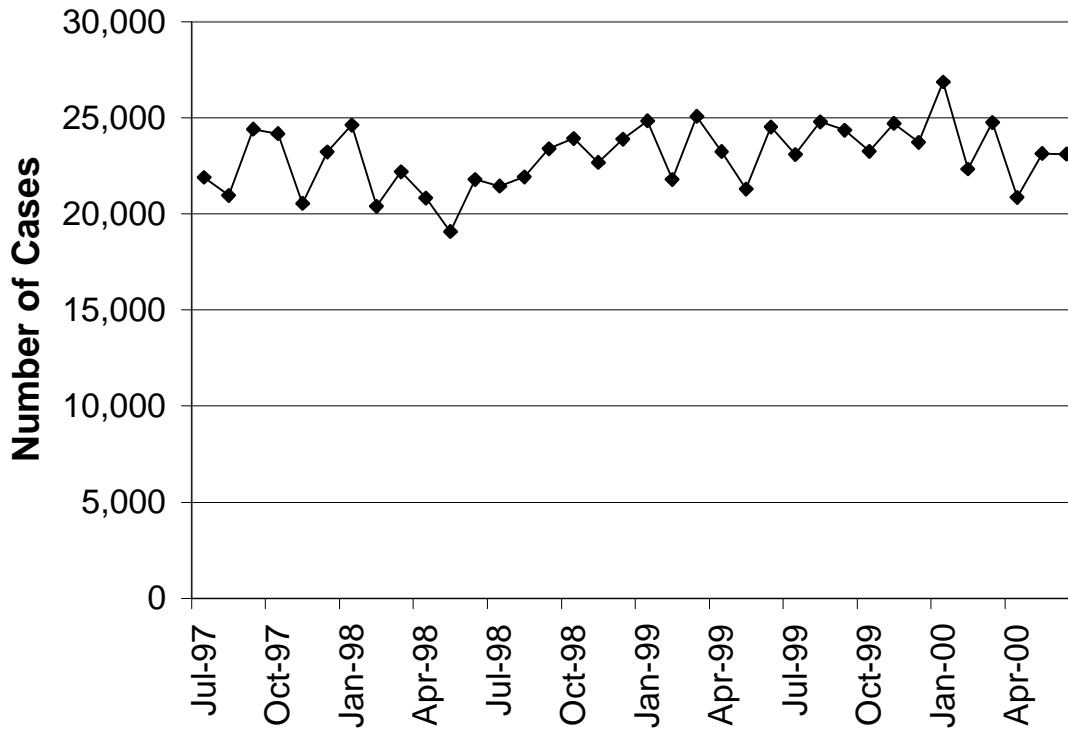


Exhibit 5
Food Assistance Applications
SFY 1998 to SFY 2000

	SFY98	SFY99	SFY00
July	21,905	21,442	23,099
August	20,966	21,925	24,780
September	24,409	23,386	24,352
October	24,170	23,926	23,253
November	20,538	22,674	24,707
December	23,225	23,894	23,724
January	24,628	24,837	26,864
February	20,388	21,785	22,330
March	22,196	25,071	24,762
April	20,820	23,243	20,851
May	19,085	21,295	23,145
June	21,782	24,528	23,100

Source: MRDA caseload tracking using the CARD database.
Note: Applications were identified using application dates in the ACES system. All applications entered into ACES are counted, including new cases, closed cases reapplying for benefits and clients added to open cases.

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Exhibit 6
Average Monthly Participating Food Assistance Cases
SFY 1988 to SFY 2000

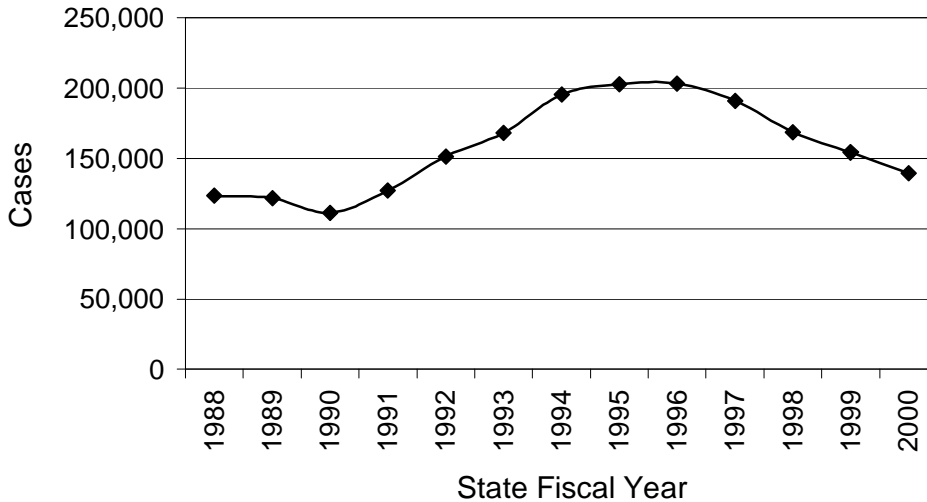


Exhibit 7
Food Assistance Program Participating Caseload
SFY 1988 to SFY 2000

State Fiscal Year	Average Monthly Participating Cases	Percent Change (from prior year)	Average Monthly Participating Persons	State Population ¹	Percent of State Population
1988	123,383		304,780	4,616,886	6.6%
1989	121,772	-1.3%	294,068	4,728,077	6.2%
1990	111,274	-8.6%	259,095	4,866,692	5.3%
1991	127,110	14.2%	295,355	5,000,400	5.9%
1992	151,462	19.2%	352,312	5,116,700	6.9%
1993	168,111	11.0%	390,928	5,240,900	7.5%
1994	195,422	16.2%	466,647	5,334,400	8.7%
1995	202,869	3.8%	476,478	5,429,900	8.8%
1996	203,274	0.2%	470,617	5,516,800	8.5%
1997	190,966	-6.1%	441,666	5,606,800	7.9%
1998	168,684	-11.7%	373,056	5,685,300	6.6%
1999	154,245	-8.3%	331,032	5,757,400	6.1%
2000	139,324	-9.7%	311,259	5,803,400	5.4%

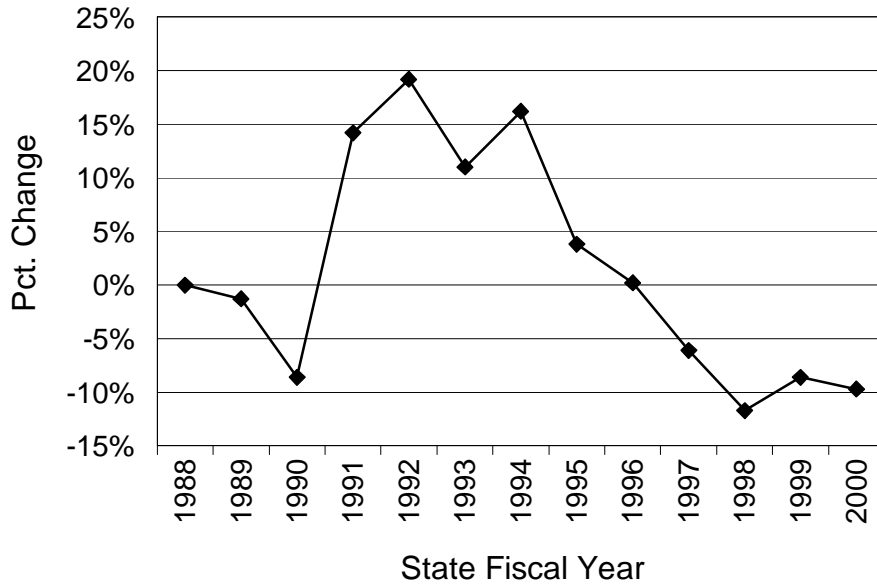
Source: SFY1988 - SFY1997, Blue Books. SFY1998 – SFY1999, ACES DMD6910A-DMD6909H Report, SFY2000 CARD Clients, Persons, and Expenditures report.

Note: Does not include FIP Food Cash. Participating cases exclude authorized cases that received a warrant for food coupons but never exchanged the warrant for the actual coupons. Participating cases include cases that received coupons directly through the mail or were issued benefits through EBT. The Cases, Persons, and Expenditures Report includes all Food Stamp cases which equals participating cases in SFY2000 because EBT was fully implemented.

¹ Source: OFM Population Trends.

Food Assistance Program

Exhibit 8
Percent Change in Participating Food Assistance Cases
SFY 19 88 to SFY 2000

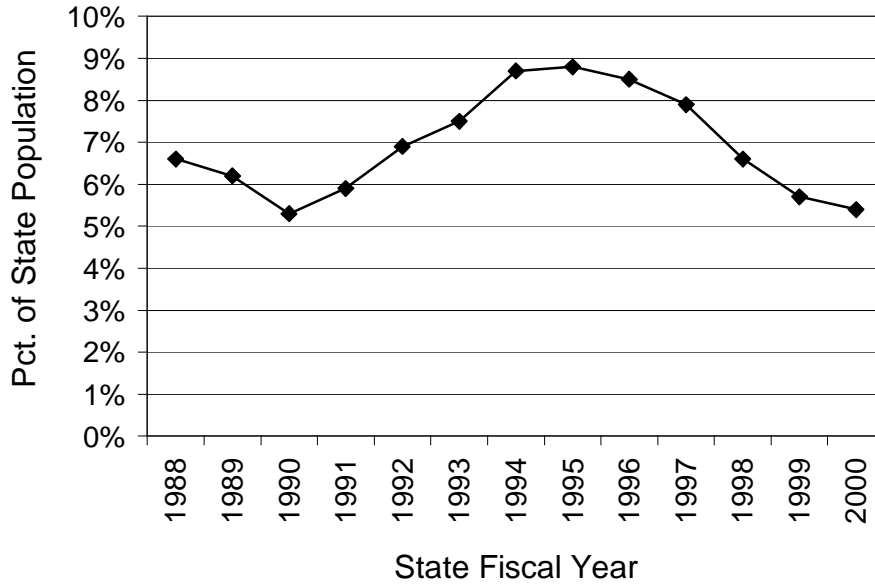


Source: SFY1988 - SFY1997, Blue Books. SFY1998 – SFY1999, ACES DMD6910A-DMD6909H Report, SFY2000 CARD Clients, Persons, and Expenditures report.

Note: Does not include FIP Food Cash. Participating cases exclude authorized cases that received a warrant for food coupons but never exchanged the warrant for the actual coupons. Participating cases include cases that received coupons directly through the mail or were issued benefits through EBT. The Cases, Persons, and Expenditures Report includes all Food Stamp cases which equals participating cases in SFY2000 because EBT was fully implemented. State Population estimates are based on OFM Population Trends.

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Exhibit 9
Participating Food Assistance Persons
as a Percent of State's Population
SFY 1988 to SFY 2000



Source: SFY1988 - SFY1997, Blue Books. SFY1998 – SFY1999, ACES DMD6910A-DMD6909H Report, SFY2000 CARD Clients, Persons, and Expenditures report.

Note: Does not include FIP Food Cash. Participating cases exclude authorized cases that received a warrant for food coupons but never exchanged the warrant for the actual coupons. Participating cases include cases that received coupons directly through the mail or were issued benefits through EBT. The Cases, Persons, and Expenditures Report includes all Food Stamp cases which equals participating cases in SFY2000 because EBT was fully implemented. State Population estimates are based on OFM Population Trends.

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Exhibit 10
Food Assistance Program Cases by Case Type
June 2000

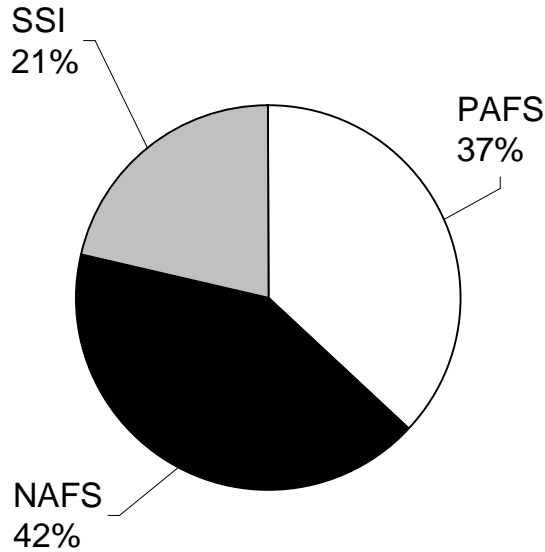


Exhibit 11
Food Assistance Program Cases by Case Type
SFY 2000

	TOTAL	FEDERAL			STATE			MIXED		
		PAFS	NAFS	SSI	PAFS	NAFS	SSI	PAFS	NAFS	SSI
Jul-99	137,988	51,328	52,554	29,202	355	371	59	1,841	2,262	16
Aug-99	137,430	50,972	52,429	29,134	347	391	58	1,839	2,245	15
Sep-99	136,401	50,876	51,777	29,169	348	364	59	1,797	1,996	15
Oct-99	136,540	50,804	52,068	29,158	356	358	55	1,809	1,914	18
Nov-99	137,162	50,591	52,659	29,238	360	372	60	1,822	2,039	21
Dec-99	137,317	51,095	52,152	29,247	362	410	61	1,871	2,097	22
Jan-00	139,809	50,611	54,871	29,140	380	465	66	1,885	2,368	23
Feb-00	142,878	51,316	56,860	29,323	384	494	67	1,968	2,443	23
Mar-00	143,566	51,821	56,949	29,509	398	493	68	1,907	2,396	25
Apr-00	142,914	51,046	56,929	29,699	407	507	75	1,859	2,369	23
May-00	140,476	49,778	55,978	29,694	424	478	66	1,776	2,261	21
Jun-00	139,402	49,179	55,541	29,756	454	442	67	1,711	2,228	24

Source: CARD Clients, Persons and Expenditures Report. All recipients in **SSI** cases also received Supplemental Security Income (SSI). All recipients on **Public Assistance Food Stamps (PAFS)** cases also received a cash assistance grant or SSI. **Non-Assistance Food Stamp (NAFS)** cases had at least one recipient who did not also receive a cash assistance grant or SSI.

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Exhibit 12

Food Assistance Program Error Rate FFY 1982 to FFY 2000

Federal FY	Error Rate	Tolerance ¹	Difference
1982	9.0	13.1	4.1
1983	9.5	9.0	-0.5
1984	9.2	7.0	-2.2
1985	8.7	5.0	-3.7
1986	9.6	11.4	1.8
1987	9.5	11.3	1.8
1988	8.4	11.0	2.6
1989	8.6	10.8	2.2
1990	9.7	10.8	1.1
1991	10.8	10.3	-0.5
1992	10.9	10.7	-0.2
1993	8.2	10.8	2.6
1994	8.9	10.3	1.4
1995	8.3	9.7	1.4
1996	10.4	9.2	-1.2
1997	14.0	9.9	-4.1
1998	14.1	10.7	-3.4
1999	7.6	9.9	2.3
2000 ²	6.7	9.9	3.2

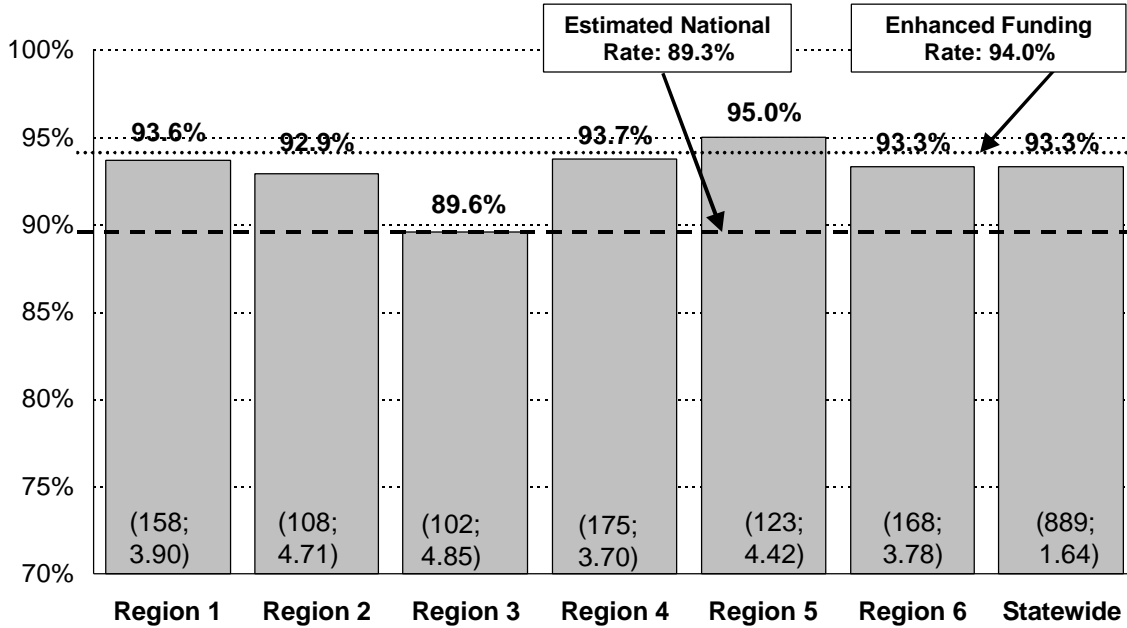
Source: Food Stamp Quality Assurance. Error rate represents State findings.

¹ The tolerance level is a federally determined threshold which states may be sanctioned for exceeding.

² Preliminary: Based on findings for benefits issued from October 1999 through May 2000.

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Exhibit 13
Regional and Statewide Food Stamp Accuracy Rates, FFY 2000
 (Sample Frame: October 1999 – June 2000)



(In parentheses: Number of Cases Completed; and, Confidence Intervals)

Source: Food Stamp Accuracy Report, October 2000.

Food Assistance Program

Exhibit 14a

Food Assistance Client Demographics, June 2000

Characteristic	All Food Assistance Clients (N=305,861)	Percent
Gender		
Female	176,270	57.6%
Male	129,579	42.4%
Unknown	12	0.0%
Race		
White	195,825	64.0%
Hispanic	36,962	12.1%
Black	29,785	9.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	16,479	5.4%
Native American	11,238	3.7%
Unknown	15,572	5.1%
Marital Status		
Separated	20,799	6.8%
Married	40,064	13.1%
Never Married	201,083	65.7%
Divorced	30,381	9.9%
Widow	7,883	2.6%
Unknown	5,651	1.8%
Citizenship		
U.S. Citizen	272,205	89.0%
Resident Alien	32,680	10.7%
U.S. National	402	0.1%
U.S. Born Child of Refugee	555	0.2%
Undocumented Alien	18	0.0%
Unknown	1	0.0%
Age		
< 17 Years Old	139,714	45.7%
17 - 18 Years Old	8,548	2.8%
19 - 20 Years Old	6,726	2.2%
21 - 30 Years Old	38,743	12.7%
31 - 40 Years Old	40,181	13.1%
41 - 50 Years Old	30,734	10.1%
51 - 55 Years Old	9,606	3.1%
56 + Years Old	31,609	10.3%
Unknown	0	0.0%
Mean	25.7 Years Old	
Median	20.4 Years Old	

Source: MRDA caseload tracking the CARD database.

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Exhibit 14b

Food Assistance Client Demographics, June 2000

Characteristic	All Food Assistance Clients (N=305,861)	Percent
Client Type		
Adult	157,586	51.5%
Child	148,275	48.5%
Limited in Life Activity ¹	69,482	22.7%
Limited in Work ¹	69,541	22.7%
Limited in English ²	48,818	16.0%
DSHS Region		
Region 1	54,364	17.8%
Region 2	40,352	13.2%
Region 3	34,986	11.4%
Region 4	59,518	19.5%
Region 5	47,783	15.6%
Region 6	60,797	19.9%
Other	8,061	2.6%
CSO Type		
Urban	218,989	71.6%
Rural	86,872	28.4%

Source: MRDA caseload tracking the CARD database.

¹ Caseworkers ask whether a client is limited in a life activity (e.g., dressing or bathing) or limited in their ability to work. The questions are used to identify disabled clients.

² A client is included in Limited English if the Head of Household for the Assistance Unit has indicated he/she wants to receive materials in a language other than English.